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AMERICA AND EUROPE.

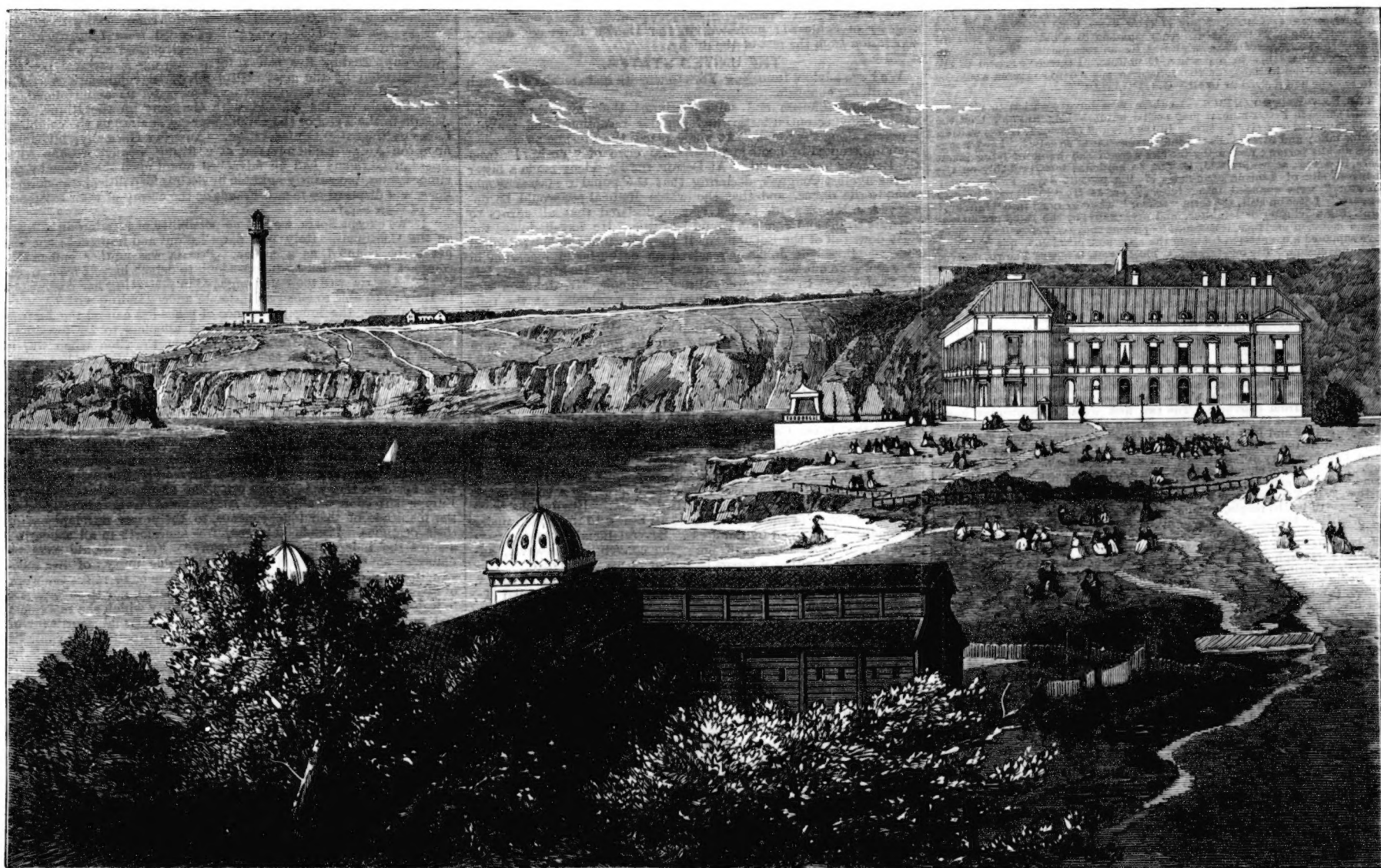
THE retirement of M. Drouyn de Lhuys from the French Foreign Office and his replacement by M. de Moustier is one of the most important events that have lately occurred on the Continent. The Marquis de Moustier is looked upon as a "specialist" in connection with the Eastern question, which, in the opinion of many diplomatists, is once more coming forward, and this time to be settled definitively. The Russians, as far as can be judged from their newspapers, are convinced that the "Sick Man" is again in that critical state to which he ought now to be accustomed, and fear that his inheritance will be disposed of without Russia's coming in for a share. Under these circumstances, the visit to St. Petersburg of the Americans charged with the duty of congratulating the Emperor on his recent escape from assassination is looked upon as peculiarly significant. The Russians have suddenly discovered that the citizens of the United States are their only true friends; and they propose, oddly enough, to look to America for support in their designs against Turkey. A great deal of ingenuity has been expended in proving that despotic Russia and republican America have all sorts of points in common. It was a mistake to suppose that the Americans ever sympathised with the Poles, and that Kosciuszko and many of his countrymen, after the partition of their native land, hastened to take service in America. The Americans have always been believers in Divine right, and respect no principle so much as the principle of authority. The Russians, on the other hand, have a profound admiration for democratic institutions, and it is really true that neither Russia nor America is favourable to the influence of aristocracy. However, it is not on community of principle, but on parity of interests, that political alliances are ordinarily based; and the Russians maintain that the Americans and themselves are equally in-

terested in holding Western Europe in check. It is easy to turn the proposed alliance between republican America and autocratic Russia into ridicule; but we must remember that if the Americans really wished to aid their Muscovite friends a message can be sent from St. Petersburg to New York in a few hours, and a fleet from New York to the Mediterranean in little more than a fortnight.

It is, we suppose, owing to the historic dignity, as well as to the eternal political importance, of the Mediterranean Sea, that every Power that pretends to a navy at all is represented there somehow or other. The English have hitherto, with very little disguise, pretended to absolute supremacy in its waters. Malta is its most central, as well as its strongest, position. Gibraltar commands its entrance. And though we have resigned the Ionian Islands, we still send vessels to Patras, at the mouth of the Gulf of Corinth, the most important mercantile port of the Morea, as well as to the Ægean; to Smyrna, the second greatest city of the Levant; to Beyrout (through which we can always act conveniently on Syria), and even to Tunis. The French chiefly confine themselves to their own Mediterranean littoral; but Toulon is the greatest of all their naval stations, and their flag is seen at intervals on the shores of all the places that we have named. The Russians have always some very crack corvettes and brigs in the Levant. The Italians have made great efforts, though as yet with imperfect success, to renew the mediæval nautical glories of Venice and Genoa; while the Austrians are still masters of the Adriatic, and man the vessels which conquered at Lissa from that Dalmatian coast which produced the famous Liburnian galleys and mariners of classical antiquity. To this list of Mediterranean Powers, America is now about to add her name. She has, indeed, always been represented by a fine frigate or two there, and has made Port Mahon her headquarters, rarely visiting the more frequented and famous

stations of the sea. But it is now believed that she has greater designs; and, though similar rumours have proved false before, we are inclined to give more credence to them in their present shape, because they follow naturally from the vast extension of naval force given to America by her civil war. She has a fleet of ships, at once of great proportions and of the newest design, on her hands, and nothing can be more probable than that she wishes to turn them to political account. The "Monroe doctrine," that no European Power ought to settle in America, does not involve, in American eyes, its converse, that America has nothing to do with Europe; and, among other results of steam and telegraphy, we must make up our minds to more American interference in European affairs than has been customary. But America's interest in such matters is too remote for her to be likely to make great sacrifices or to run great risks in this new cause; and the recent announcement that she is likely to obtain a Greek island is very interesting indeed, but not alarming.

The transition from this last piece of news to the Candian insurrection is obvious enough, since all revolts among subjects of the Porte are encouraging to Russia, and Russia and America are on rather ostentatiously good terms. We are inclined to think seriously of the Candian insurrection, because ever since the war of independence the bravest part of the population, the mountaineers, have been obstinately anti-Turkish; and the accounts of our latest observers there—such as Captain Spratt, of the Navy, who knows the island thoroughly—show that this feeling is permanent, and that conciliation is impossible. The present movement is not only a renewal of the old revolutionary feeling by which the present kingdom of Greece was freed, but it has this further force, that it is in sympathy with the successful assertion of nationality in Italy. Italy and Greece have always had



THE PALACE EUGÉNIE, BIARRITZ.

great influence on each other; and it was by driving out the Venetians—once more become Italian—that Turkey acquired Candia in the seventeenth century. Her rule is milder than it was; but its long-continued barbarism has left indelible traces in the minds of the population.

THE VILLA OF THE EMPRESS EUGENIE AT BIARRITZ.

BIARRITZ is fast becoming a fashionable watering-place, not only for French visitors but for English tourists: there was a time when Dover and Ramsgate received scores of foreign guests, and the hotel and lodging-house keepers made a very good thing out of their residents; but then few of our lively neighbours would venture on the sea voyage, and even now the average French citizen dreads the ocean above everything. That is to say, he will look at it, sniff it, paddle in it, do anything but go upon it. Any of our readers who have seen that frigate which was anchored in the Seine near the Pont Neuf and turned into a bathing establishment must have wondered greatly to have noticed a fountain of sea-water, around which seats were placed, where a company could sit and inhale the odour of the briny spray: this was a contrivance to obviate the necessity for going to the seaside. Calais is not very lively, Boulogne is neither French nor English, and there was no other watering-place worth visiting until the reign of the Empress Eugénie and the consequent elevation of Biarritz into a fashionable resort. Ever since that time the Parisian world has had a seaside of its own, and the Court has adjourned thither every year to eat prawns, to paddle about in picturesque bathing-costumes, to visit the little local celebrities, and generally to lounge and loiter away its mornings, to sleep away its afternoons, and to dine, dance, and dawdle away its evenings. So Biarritz has grown from a little fifth-rate-looking weedy, sandy, seedy village to a handsome town, increasing every day in size and importance, and numbering all sorts of notabilities amongst its visitors, for whose accommodation there are fine hotels, lodging-houses, saloons, restaurants, and Parisian institutions imported from the Boulevards, even to a "fif, fie!" casino, a bright little theatre, and al fresco cafés, where the insidious absinthe or the refreshing ice can be consumed beneath the slight protection of a striped awning.

Nothing can be more piquant and picturesque than the scene in the clean, light streets of this bran new watering-place, where the varied costumes are a source of continual attraction—that is to say, not only the short-skirted and hessian-booted style of dress recently adopted by the female leaders of fashion in France; not the scarlet skirt very little below the knee, and the large chignon, and the saucy sailor's hat with streaming ribbons, and the long walking-stick; not even the queer bathing-dresses, which make their wearers look like damp masquers from a very free and a very fanciful carnival ball; but the real, genuine Spanish, French, and Basque costumes of the people from the country round about who come to sell their wares: these, with the gaudy bazaars, the omnibuses and chais-à-banc, and cabs, make the streets lively all day long. The sights of Biarritz may be few, but they are certainly not far between; they lie in a group at distances very suitable to the lazy geniuses of the places. The Cambo, Roland's Pass, the Chambre d'Amour, the valley where Charlemagne heard the hornblast that announced the defeat of Roncesvalles, are within a stone's throw, or say, a bowshot; and the legendary caverns and niches about the cliffs are not very difficult of access, even in buff or morocco slippers or red-heeled boots à la Polonoise.

The Imperial residence is, of course, the gem building of Biarritz; and of this we publish an engraving. It stands not far from the water's edge when the tide is up, on a terrace the base of which is washed by the waves. Originally a sandy plain, the ground on which the house is built and the land round it now blossom with shrubs and flowers; the whole parterre being watered by little shining canals, communicating with an artificial lake. The building—the architectural features of which are not dissimilar to those of the ancient French châteaux—is, of course, furnished with every modern appliance; and connected with it is a private bathing-establishment for the use of their Majesties, who live very quietly, *en famille*, and go freely amongst the other visitors, many of whom excite greater public attention than themselves.

GARIBALDI AND THE EXPENSES OF THE VOLUNTEER FORCE.—In anticipation of the approaching dissolution of the Italian volunteer force, Garibaldi has issued a circular pointing out the necessity of settling the claims against him on account of that force. It runs as follows:—"The preparations for the expeditions which have been so advantageous for the country, especially that of 1860, caused me to contract certain debts with some honest and generous citizens who furnished some of the necessities in the interest of the country. Many of these debts have not been paid, and the country ought to pay them. They amount to about 105,000*fr.*, not including the sacrifices of those who seek for no recompense—a self-abnegation which all are in a position to imitate. I therefore appeal to the patriotism of the Italians, for the refusal to pay a debt so sacred would be ruin to some and dishonour to all.—G. GARIBALDI."

THE NEW RECORD OFFICE.—To those who have occasion to visit the Record Office in Fetter-lane, it may not be uninteresting to know how the locale happened to derive its title. In the reign of Charles I. it was written Fewter-lane; and in Howell's "Londonopolis" it is so called. Fewter signifies an idle person; and many fewters were in the habit of lying about there in a way, as we are told, leading to gardens; most probably on the identical site of Lincoln's-inn-fields of the present day. Subsequently "fewters" were changed into "faiours," or, as Howell tells us, "mighty beggars." Later on still, the term "fewter" was corrupted into "faiour," signifying a defayer or defaulter, and eventually, by the rapid pronunciation of common parlance, it assumed its present shape of Fetter-lane. Some have supposed a connection between the spot and criminals, but this is a misapprehension. The one term, Fleet-street, it is well known, derives its title from the Fleet, to which it led; and the other, Holborn, is a corruption of Old Bourne, or Old River—bourne, as is well known, being the old English word for river. Hence we have Bournmouth, &c. Almost immediately opposite the Holborn terminus is Gray's Inn. No student here need be reminded of the historical associations of Verulam-buildings; but it may not be generally known that the famous "Captain Needham," one of the earliest newspaper writers, was originally an under-clerk in Gray's Inn.—*Solicitors' Journal.*

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—The "weekly" return of the Registrar General for Saturday last shows an increase of deaths from cholera over the previous week by twenty-five, although this is nearly compensated for by a decrease of twenty-two from diarrhoea. The two first weeks of September have hitherto been noted in cholera visitations. In the first week of September in the years 1849 and 1854 the number of deaths were respectively 2026 and 2050, which in the second week fell to 1682 and 1549. In 1866 our experience has been very different. In the first week of this September the deaths were 198 from cholera and 128 from diarrhoea—together, 326; in the second week, 157 and 132—together, 289; in the third week, 182 and 110—together, 292. The Registrar warns us that the utmost vigilance ought yet to be observed by the people, the health officers, and the Board of Works. The Registrar appends to his report a supplementary paper, entitled "The Rise and Decline of Cholera in London;" but we fear it will be some time before he is able to report its extinction. An appended paragraph gives a sad account of the health of Liverpool. The deaths there during the past eleven weeks have averaged 50·7 per 1000 persons living; and the last four weeks the deaths from cholera have been 146, 225, 145, and 182. The mortality from diarrhoea, however, fell to 51 from 84. In Dublin there were 55 deaths from cholera last week. The London "daily" return for Sunday and Monday brings before us the extraordinary decrease in mortality which takes place on those days as compared with the other days of the week, and for which no adequate explanation has yet been given. The deaths by cholera in the two days were 31, or 154 for each day; while those of the five preceding days were respectively 26, 32, 28, 26, and 31. Also in the kindred disease there were but 21, or 104 deaths for each day; while on Saturday there were 19. Divided into districts, the deaths for Sunday and Monday last were:—Cholera, west, 1; north, 3; central, 3; east, 12; and south, 12. Diarrhoea, west, 2; north, 1; central, 1; east, 9; and south, 8. The Registrar General, in his weekly report, calls attention to the remarkable and suggestive fact that the decline of cholera in the eastern districts of the metropolis was coincident with the measures adopted by Mr. Graves, the engineer, for ensuring a purer supply of water from the East London Company's reservoirs. An association has been formed for the purpose of promoting a purer and more continuous supply of water to the inhabitants of the metropolis generally. They also propose to amend the present scale of rates. The committee includes Alderman Lusk, Dr. Jeaffreson, Mr. R. N. Fowler, and other well-known sanitary reformers.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

M. de Lavalette's circular is, of course, the leading topic in all the French and Belgian journals. The tone of the circular is considered by the public in general to be pacific; but the semi-official papers see in the passage about the secondary States an indication of the policy of annexing Belgium and the French cantons of Switzerland.

The *Moniteur* the other day contained the following paragraph:—"The Emperor of Mexico had intrusted the Portfolio for War to General Osmond and that of Finance to M. Friand, Chief Superintendent of the French army in Mexico. The military duties of these two superior functionaries attached to the army being incompatible with their new functions, they have not been authorised to accept them."

PRUSSIA, ITALY, AND AUSTRIA.

All the arrangements connected with the peace treaty between the contending Powers in the late war seem to be coming to a satisfactory conclusion. The Prussian Baltic fleet is said to have been put out of commission, most of the vessels disarmed and laid aside, and all the maritime reserves disbanded. General Revel has left Florence for Venice, in order to assist in the arrangements for the transfer of the fortresses of the Quadrilateral. From Vienna we hear that at a conference held in that city General Menabrea made propositions relative to the Venetian debt which are stated to have had the support of France and Prussia, and that an understanding had already been come to upon the other articles of the treaty. Austria asks for the payment of a round sum, and the Italian Government have agreed to negotiate on this basis.

The King of Prussia has published a letter to his subjects generally, thanking them for the expressions of loyalty and devotion which he is constantly receiving. The triumphal entry of the troops into Berlin commenced on Thursday, and afforded opportunity for a most imposing demonstration. Count Bismarck is ill, which is likely to prevent him from putting in an appearance at the festivities; but, even when well, he has repeatedly held back from anything like a personal ovation.

The King of Prussia intends recompensing the services of the army by the distribution of a considerable number of orders of merit among the troops immediately after their return to Berlin. The list of those to whom they will be awarded will be published very shortly.

The Emperor of Austria has addressed an autograph letter to Prince von Lobkowitz, Governor of the Tyrol, announcing that silver medals will be struck in commemoration of the fidelity and valour shown by the people of the Tyrol during the late war. These medals will be awarded, without exception, to every Tyrolean who has taken the field in defence of the Fatherland.

Palermo is in a disturbed state in consequence of some religious disputes. It appears that several bands of brigands, organised at the convent of Montreale, had entered the city, demanding the preservation of the religious corporations. The influence of the National Guard of Palermo and the environs, coupled with the military, it was expected, would prove sufficiently powerful to frighten the brigands and restore order.

THE INSURRECTION IN CANDIA.

A battle has taken place near Canea, in the Island of Candia, between the Cretan insurgents and the combined Turkish and Egyptian troops. The latter, who were 80,000 strong, are stated to have remained masters of the field, after an engagement which lasted eight hours. The insurgents, whose numbers are estimated at 40,000, were badly armed. They lost 600 killed.

The Cretan Assembly-General have resolved that the Island of Candia shall be annexed to Greece. The proclamation in which the Assembly announce this measure justifies the insurrection by a narrative of the wrongs which the people have endured. They had endeavoured to obtain redress by Constitutional means, but without success. A point-blank denial is given to highly coloured stories which have been published by some of our contemporaries with reference to the conduct of the Government of Greece in this emergency. It is stated that the Government have declared their intention to preserve a strict neutrality, although they cannot prevent expressions of sympathy on the part of private individuals. It is denied that the Turkish Government have addressed anything in the shape of an angry or menacing despatch to the Greek Ministry.

SCHLESWIG.

A meeting, numerously attended by persons from all parts of Northern Schleswig, was held at Hadersleben on Sunday, when resolutions were adopted declaring in the most decided manner against any division of Schleswig, and in favour of its complete incorporation with Prussia. Speakers from the extreme northern frontier of Schleswig protested, in the Danish language, against separation from the rest of the duchy.

THE UNITED STATES.

We have advices from New York to the 8th inst., received through the ordinary channels.

President Johnson and suite continued their tour through the west, receiving enthusiastic and popular receptions, and making speeches along the route. At some places the President's speeches were interrupted by hoots and hisses and cries of "Traitor!" from the Radicals in the crowd. At Detroit the President made a bitter speech against Congress, declaring that the popular masses would come to the rescue, and that the whole Radical set would be destroyed. Mr. Seward, in his speech, declared that all efforts to separate Grant and Johnson would be futile. He foreshadowed the early downfall of the Republicans if they continued in their Radical course. President Johnson received an enthusiastic reception in Chicago. No offensive demonstration occurred. He afterwards left for St. Louis. In his journey through Illinois, Mr. Johnson was several times insulted by the Radical crowds assembled at the railway stations.

The Radical Convention assembled at Philadelphia on the 3rd inst. Delegates from nearly all the Southern States were present, also Generals Butler, Banks, and Burnside, Fred. Douglass, Brownlow, and other Radicals. The Northern and Southern delegates assembled for discussion in different halls. Ex-Attorney-General Speed was chosen chairman of the convention. Senator Chandler made a speech declaring that, if President Johnson did not execute the laws, Congress would impeach him. The leading speakers denounced Mr. Johnson. The convention afterwards issued an address denouncing President Johnson, and declaring that his policy wrought the most deplorable consequences, morally, socially, and politically, throughout the South, and expressing a hope for the success of the Radical cause at the ballot-box. Resolutions were adopted in favour of the restoration of all States to the Union under the conditions proposed by Congress. Several members of the convention repudiated negro suffrage; the convention, however, adjourned, after adopting a report in favour of negro suffrage.

The Republicans had carried the Vermont and Maine elections. The New York Republican State Convention had renominated Mr. Fenton for the governorship.

A Fenian congress was sitting at Troy, at which, it was reported, it had been resolved to reinstate Canada.

MEXICO.

Advices from Vera Cruz to the 25th ult. state that the Imperialists had inaugurated a fresh campaign against the State of Chihuahua. Several Americans confined in the castle of San Juan d'Ulloa had been charged with conspiracy, and it was believed that one of them would be shot.

It was asserted in official circles at New Orleans that the Emperor Maximilian had arranged for an early departure from Mexico some weeks ago, but the French refused to permit him to leave then; he would, however, shortly depart for Europe.

SOUTH AMERICA.

A great battle was fought on July 16 between the Paraguayans and the Brazilians and their allies, which resulted in the defeat of the latter with very great loss.

The Paraguayans had been gradually opening trenches and surrounding the allied camp with fortifications, which would have enfiladed the left bank of the army, rendering the position untenable, when Marshal Polydoro Jordao took command of the 1st Corps of the Brazilian army on July 15. He immediately detected the disastrous consequences which would follow the completion of the works, and after a council of war it was resolved to attack and carry the enemy's position on the following day. At daybreak on the 16th the attack commenced, and the nearest trenches were taken by the 4th Division of the Brazilian army under Brigadier-General William H. de Souza. The Paraguayans, however, fought hard, and returned to retake the position with strong reinforcements, but were repulsed and driven back in disorder. The fight lasted all day and through part of the night, sixteen consecutive hours. On the next day, the 17th, there was but little firing; but on the 18th the attack was renewed, and the third line of fortifications carried by the 6th Division. The General of this division, however, directed the attack very imprudently, and the losses of the Brazilians were very heavy. Marshal Polydoro immediately fortified in an inverse sense the positions conquered, and thus rendered the camp much more secure and less subject to bombardment. He has also opened communications between the fleet and the new positions by making a road through the woods, not more than two miles across, separating the naval and military forces, whereas by water the distance was nine leagues. The commissariat and the hospitals have also been placed on a far better footing. General Porto Alegre had arrived with the 2nd Corps, 9000 strong, and horses and mules for the cavalry and artillery were also rapidly arriving at the camp. News is now daily expected of a great and decisive battle. The losses of the allies on the 16th and 18th of July were 2500 men hors de combat, the proportion of officers being very large, as the Paraguayans, under cover of the woods, pick them off with a cool aim. Colonel Pallesja, Flores's intimate friend and companion, was among the killed. This is the Brazilian account of the affair, which, however, is somewhat inconsistent with other reports, which gave a decided victory to the Paraguayans.

The weather at the south has been very boisterous, and two Brazilian transports have been totally wrecked, the Oyapock at the mouth of the River Plate, and the J. S. Roman, near St. Catherine. No lives were lost.

THE FOREIGN POLICY OF FRANCE.

The following is the text of a circular despatch just addressed by the French Government to its representatives in foreign Courts:—

"PARIS, Sept. 16.

"Sir,—The Emperor's Government cannot any longer defer the expression of its views concerning the events which have just been accomplished in Germany. M. De Moustier being necessarily absent for some time longer, his Majesty has directed me to explain to his diplomatic agents the motives which actuate his policy. The war which broke out in Central and Southern Europe has destroyed the Germanic Confederation, and has definitely established Italian nationality. Prussia, whose limits have been extended by victory, is predominant on the right bank of the Maine. Austria has lost Venetia, and she is separated from Germany. In presence of these considerable changes all States must be alive to a feeling of responsibility; they ask themselves what is the effect of the recently-concluded peace—what will be its influence upon European order, and upon the international position of each Power?

"Public opinion in France has been excited. It wavers doubtfully between the joy of seeing the treaties of 1815 destroyed and a fear lest the power of Prussia should assume excessive proportions—between a desire for the preservation of peace and the hope of obtaining by war a territorial extension. It rejoices at the complete enfranchisement of Italy, but wishes to be reassured in respect of dangers which might menace the Holy Father. The perplexities that disturb men's minds, and which also have their effects abroad, impose upon the Government the duty of stating clearly the light in which it regards the subject.

"France ought never to have an equivocal policy. If she be affected in her interests or in her strength by the important changes which are taking place in Germany, she ought to declare it frankly, and should take the measures which may be necessary for ensuring her security. If she loses nothing by the pending transformations, she ought to state the fact sincerely and to resist exaggerated apprehensions and ardent views which, by provoking international jealousies, might divert her from the course which she should pursue. In order to dissipate uncertainties and to establish facts, it is necessary to look at what has happened and what is likely to happen in all their bearings. What do we find in the past? After 1815 the Holy Alliance united against France all the peoples from the Ural to the Rhine. The Germanic Confederation comprised, with Prussia and Austria, 80,000,000 people; it extended from Luxembourg to Trieste, from the Baltic to Trent, and surrounded us with an iron girdle supported by five federal fortresses; our strategic position was restricted by the most slight territorial combinations. The slightest difficulty that might occur between us and Holland, or with Prussia on the Moselle, with Germany on the Rhine, with Austria in the Tyrol or the Friuli, brought against us the combined forces of the entire Confederation. Austrian Germany, invincible upon the Adige, could advance at a fitting moment to the Alps. Prussian Germany had an advanced guard upon the Rhine in the minor States, incessantly agitated by desires for political transformations, and disposed to regard France as the enemy of their existence and of their aspirations.

"If we except Spain, we had no possibility of forming an alliance on the Continent. Italy was parcelled out and impotent; she was not to be counted as a nation. Prussia was neither sufficiently compact nor sufficiently independent to detach herself from traditions. Austria was too much engaged in preserving her possessions in Italy to be able to effect an intimate understanding with us.

"Doubtless, the long prevalence of peace has caused the dangers of these territorial organisations and alliances to be forgotten, for they appear to be formidable only at the time when war is about to break out; but this precarious security France has sometimes obtained at the price of foregoing her position (*role*) in the world. It is incontestable that during nearly forty years she has found raised against her the coalition of the three northern Courts, united by the recollections of common defeats and victories, by similar principles of Government, by solemn treaties, and by sentiments of distrust towards our liberal and civilising action. If now we examine the future of transformed Europe, what guarantees does it offer to France and to the peace of the world? The coalition of the three northern Courts is broken up. The new principle that governs Europe is freedom of alliances. All the great Powers are restored to the plenitude of their independence, to the proper development of their destinies. Prussia enlarged, free henceforth in all solidarity, assures the independence of Germany. France should take no umbrage at that. Proud of her admirable unity, of her indestructible nationality, she ought not to oppose or to reject the work of assimilation which has just been accomplished, nor to subordinate to jealous feelings the principles of nationality which she represents and professes in respect of peoples. The national sentiment of Germany being satisfied, her uneasiness is dissipated, her enemies disappear. By imitating France she has taken a step towards us and not from us. In the south, Italy, whose long bondage (*servitude*) has not extinguished patriotism, is placed in possession of all her elements of national greatness. Her existence profoundly modifies the political condition of Europe; but, notwithstanding unreflecting susceptibilities or momentary injustice, her ideas, her principles, her interests draw her nearer to the nation which has shed its blood to assist her in conquering her independence.

"The interests of the Pontifical Throne are assured by the Convention of the 15th of September. That convention will be loyally executed. In withdrawing his troops from Rome, the Emperor will leave in their place, as a guarantee for the security of the Holy Father, the protection of France.

"In the Baltic, as in the Mediterranean, are growing up navies of the second rank, which are favourable to the freedom of the seas.

"Austria released from her German and Italian tendencies, employing no longer her forces in barren rivalries, but concentrating them on Eastern Europe, still represents a Power with 35,000,000 souls, which no hostility nor interest separates from France.

"By what singular reaction of the past upon the future should public opinion see, not the allies, but the enemies of France in those nations enfranchised from a past which was hostile to us summoned to a new life, governed by principles which are our own, and animated by those sentiments of progress which are the peaceful bond of modern societies?

"A Europe more strongly constituted, rendered more homogeneous by more precise territorial divisions, is a guarantee for the peace of the Continent, and is neither a danger nor an injury to our nation. This nation, with Algeria, will shortly reckon more than 40,000,000 inhabitants; Germany 37,000,000, of which 29,000,000 are in the Northern Confederation and 8,000,000 in the Southern Confederation; Austria, 35,000,000; Italy, 26,000,000; Spain, 18,000,000. What is there in this distribution of European forces which can disquiet us?

"An irresistible power—can it be regretted?—impels peoples to unite themselves in great masses by causing the disappearance of minor States. This tendency arises from a desire to assure to the general interests more efficacious securities. Perhaps it may be inspired by a kind of providential anticipation of the destinies of the world. While the ancient populations of the Continent within their restricted territories increase but slowly, Russia and the United States of America may each before another century have expired contain 100,000,000 inhabitants. Although the progress of these two great empires cannot be to us a source of uneasiness, and while, on the contrary, we applaud their generous efforts on behalf of oppressed races, it is proper that, with a wise foresight in respect of the future, the nations of Central Europe should not remain parcelled out into so many different States, without strength and without public spirit. Political science should rise above the narrow and paltry prejudices of a past age. The Emperor does not believe that the greatness of one country depends upon the weakening of neighbouring peoples, and sees no real balance of power save in the satisfied wishes of the nations of Europe. In that he follows his ancient convictions and the traditions of his race, Napoleon I. foresaw the changes which are now taking place upon the European continent. He planted the germs of new nationalities in the Peninsula by creating the kingdom of Italy; in Germany by causing the disappearance of 253 independent States.

"If these considerations are well founded and true, the Emperor was right in accepting the part of mediator, which has not been devoid of glory, in order to put an end to useless and lamentable bloodshed, to moderate the victor by his friendly intervention, to modify the consequences of reverses, to bring about, despite many obstacles, the restoration of peace. He would, on the other hand, have mistaken his great responsibility if, violating a promised and proclaimed neutrality, he had rushed suddenly into all the risks of a great war, one of those wars which revive the hatreds of races, and in which entire nations are engaged. What really could have been the object of such a contest voluntarily entered upon with Prussia, and necessarily with Italy? A conquest—a territorial aggrandisement. But the Imperial Government has long since applied its principles in respect to an extension of territory. It understands—it has understood—annexations dictated by an absolute necessity uniting to the country populations having the same customs, the same national spirit as ourselves, and it sought for the free consent of Savoy and the county of Nice to the re-establishment of our national frontiers. France can only desire those territorial aggrandisements which will not affect her coherent power; but she must always strive for moral and political aggrandisement by employing her influence for the great interests of civilisation.

"Her part is to cement the union between all the Powers that desire at the same time to maintain the principle of authority and to favour the cause of progress. The alliance will take from revolution the prestige which has been claimed for it of furthering the cause of freedom for the people, and will preserve to great enlightened States the wise direction of the democratic movement which manifests itself throughout Europe.

"Nevertheless, there is in the emotion which has been evoked in the country a legitimate sentiment which it is right to acknowledge and to define. The results of the last war contain a grave lesson and one which has cost nothing to the honour of our arms. They point out to us the necessity, for the defence of our territory, of perfecting without delay our military organisation. The nation will not be wanting to this task, which can be a menace to no one; it has a just pride in the valour of its armies; its susceptibilities awakened by the recollections of its military pomps, by the name and the acts of the Sovereign who governs it, are but the expressions of its energetic will to maintain against all attempts its rank and its influence in the world.

"In short, from the elevated point of view from which the Imperial Government regards the destinies of Europe the horizon appears to be cleared of all menacing eventualities. Formidable problems which ought to have been resolved because they could not be evaded pressed upon the destinies of populations; they might have been imposed at a more inopportune period; they have received their natural solution without too violent shocks, and without the dangerous co-operation of revolutionary passions. A peace which reposes upon such bases will be a durable peace.

"As to France, in whatever direction she looks she can perceive nothing which can impede her progress or interrupt her prosperity. Preserving friendly relations with all Powers, directed by a policy which has generosity and moderation for its strength, relying upon her imposing unity, with her all-extended genius, her treasures, and her credit, which fertilise Europe; with her developed military forces, surrounded henceforth by independent nations, she will appear not less great, she will remain not less respected.

"Such is the language which you must hold in your communications with the Government to which you are accredited.

"Accept, &c., "LAVALETTE."

THE DUKEDOM OF CHATELHERAULT.—The long-pending question between the Duke of Hamilton and the Marquis of Abercorn as to the right to the dukedom of Chateherault has now been finally decided by the Conseil d'Etat au Contentieux of Paris, at their séance of Aug. 3, in favour of the Duke of Hamilton. Some years back the late Duke of Hamilton was found entitled, by the decree of the courts of France, to the hereditary title of Duke of Chateherault, created by Henry II. of France in favour of the Earl of Arran. Against this decree the Marquis of Abercorn presented an appeal in 1864-5; and, in consequence of the death of the late Duke, appearance was entered by his widow, Princess Mary of Baden, Duchess of Hamilton, on behalf of her son, the present Duke, then a minor. In April of this year the present Duke, having then attained his majority, entered appearance in his own name; and thereafter the question went to issue between him and the Marquis, and has been decided by the said Conseil d'Etat au Contentieux as follows:—"Article No. 1. The petition of the Marquis of Abercorn is rejected. Article No. 2. The Marquis of Abercorn is found liable in expenses. Article No. 3. Our Keeper of the Seals Minister, Secretary of State for Justice and 'des Cultes,' is charged with the execution of the present decree. Approved this 11th day of August, 1866, NAPOLEON."

THE VINTAGE.—Most unfavourable accounts of the vintage are being received from the wine growing countries of Burgundy and the centre of France. In the former district immense ravages were made three days back by a severe hailstorm. At Dijon the effects were scarcely felt, but at about three miles from the town on the road to Beaune the damage commenced. From there to Marsannay the vines are completely cut to shreds; on several points there remain on the plants neither leaves nor fruit. Nuits and the neighbourhood, however, escaped. At Beaune the hail fell with great violence for about ten minutes, and the stones rattled on the pavement with a noise equal to that of a park of artillery passing through the town. The storm extended from Beaune to Anxay by way of Volnay and Pommard, with a ramification to Gigny, Cherey, and Vignolles. The top of the hill-side, however, suffered less than the lower part. Although no accounts of hailstorms are received from the Beaujolais, the vintners complain greatly of the weather during which the fruit has ripened, and declare that, whatever improvement may take place between now and that period for gathering, the wine cannot be otherwise than bad. The maturity is unequal, and rot has shown itself in the lower vines. On the hills the fruit is both too close and too abundant, which are two causes unfavourable to good quality.

THE NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.

THE treaty of confederation between the States who have joined the North German Confederation is as follows:—

1. The Governments of Prussia, Saxony, Oldenburg, Brunswick, Sachsen-Altenburg, Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha, Anhalt, Schwarzburg-Sondershausen, Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, Waldeck, Beuss (of the younger line), Schaumburg-Lippe, Lippe, Lüneburg, Bremen, and Hamburg conclude an offensive and defensive treaty for the maintenance of the independence and integrity, as well as of the internal and external security, of their States, and undertake a common defence of their territory, which they guarantee by this treaty.

2. The aims of the confederation shall be definitely laid down by a Confederate Constitution on the basis of the Prussian outlines of the 10th of June, 1866, with the co-operation of a common Parliament which is to be called together.

3. All existing treaties and agreements between the Confederates are to remain in full force, as far as they are not expressly modified by the present federation.

4. The troops of the Confederates are to be under the supreme command of the King of Prussia. The duties during war will be arranged by special settlements.

5. The Confederate Governments will appoint votes to be taken on the basis of the elective law of the empire, April 12, 1849, for deputies to the Parliament, and will call the latter together in common with Prussia. They shall also send Plenipotentiaries to Berlin, in order to settle the Bill of Confederation in accordance with the outlines of the 10th of June, 1866, which is to be laid before the Parliament for its consideration and approval. The duration of this agreement is until the formation of the new Confederation, and is settled for one year if the new Confederation be not concluded before the expiration of a year.

6. The above treaty of agreement shall be ratified and the ratifications exchanged as soon as possible, at the latest within three weeks of the date of its conclusion, at Berlin.

The law for the election of representatives for the North German Parliament was passed on Wednesday week by the Berlin House of Deputies in the following form:—

1. A Parliament is to be assembled for the consideration of the Constitution and of the regulations of the North German Confederation.

2. Every man blameless in the eye of the law, who is a citizen of one of the German States united in the Confederation, is to be a voter as soon as he has attained the age of twenty-five.

3. From the right of voting are excluded—1. Persons who are under guardianship or trusteeship; 2. persons against whose property rules of bankruptcy have been granted, during the term of such bankruptcy; 3. persons who obtain support as paupers from the funds of the State, or of their district, or who have obtained such support during the year preceding the election.

4. As criminals, and therefore excluded from the right of voting, shall be considered those from whom the full and perfect enjoyment of their rights as citizens has been withdrawn by legal sentence, as long as these rights are not restored to them.

5. Any man entitled to vote who has belonged for at least three years to one of the States forming the Confederation may be elected as deputy. Penalties for political offences which have been undergone or remitted do not exclude from election.

6. Persons who occupy a public office require no permission from Government to enter Parliament.

7. One deputy is to be elected for every 100,000 souls of the population, as shown in the last census. A surplus of 50,000 souls, or more, in the total population of a State, is to be reckoned as equal to 100,000 souls. Each deputy is to be elected in a special elective department.

8. The elective departments will be divided for the purpose of voting into smaller districts.

9. Whoever wishes to exercise his right of voting in a particular district must have his residence at the time of the poll in that district. No elector may vote in more than one place.

10. In every district lists will be opened in which the Christian and surnames of those entitled to vote, with their ages, professions, and dwelling-places, will be entered. These lists shall be open to everyone's inspection at the latest four weeks before the day appointed for the election; and this is to be publicly advertised. Objections to the lists are to be made within eight days of the appearance of the public advertisement to the authority by whom the advertisement has been published, and are to be settled within the next fourteen days, whereupon the lists will be closed. Only those are entitled to vote who have their names inscribed on the lists.

11. Voting is to be in public; members of the community are to take part in it who hold no direct office under Government. The vote is to be given in person by means of a voting card, without signature, which is to be enclosed in an envelope, and so placed in an urn.

12. The voting is to be direct. Election is to be dependent upon the absolute majority of all the votes given in one department. Should there not be an absolute majority, the votes are to be taken over again, but only to decide between the two candidates who have the most votes.

13. Representatives of the Deputies are not to vote.

14. The polls are to take place at the same time in the whole of the States.

15. The elective departments and districts, the directors and the proceedings of the elections, in so far as they are not determined by the present bill, are to be settled by the Government.

16. The Parliament examines into the privileges of its members, and decides upon the granting of them. It regulates the order of its business and its discipline.

17. No member of the Parliament can at any time be prosecuted in a court of justice or a police court on account of his vote, or for any utterances made use of in the exercise of his office, or be otherwise rendered responsible outside of the Assembly.

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

THE following facts concerning the terrible famine now prevailing over certain districts in India are gleaned from the newspapers received per the overland mail. The distress is most prevalent and most dire in Bengal, and it exists in varying degree over the whole presidency. In Orissa, Nuddea, Beerbhoom, the Cuttak, and other districts the scarcity has been intensified to a degree that is simply devastating. Thousands have died, and are dying, in abject want. The starving poor have crowded into Calcutta, and the streets are full of distressing scenes and incidents. It has been estimated that no fewer than 20,000 to 25,000 starving people are wandering about the capital. Disease aids want to thin the crowd with horrible rapidity, but the multitude grows, notwithstanding recruited continually. To cope with this distress effectually is hardly possible. The Government action is complained of as sluggish; individual efforts, although they do much, are comparatively powerless to stem the tide. The native rich classes, however, are conspicuous by the exertions they make. At Mullick's the Bombay merchants have raised a fund, and they distribute food. The crowd of famishing men and women who come to this part for the scanty meal has constantly increased, till at the time the mail left 7000 applicants crowded up. They are described as placed in order upon an open space, waiting for the distribution. On one side nearly 4000 Hindoos, each with a leaf platter before him, were squatted on the wet ground, hastily partaking of the scanty dole they had received. On the other side were thousands of famishing Mussulmans ranged in like manner, and watching with silent and greedy eagerness the meal of their Hindoo brethren, and counting with bitter longings the minutes till their turn should come. Under shelter of the ghats crouched the women, girls, and children. Outside the gates were hundreds and hundreds who had lost their chance till the next distribution. But over all a horrible, dead silence. No chattering or converse; hardly a sound, except when at intervals some wretch threw up his arms with an ejaculation to Heaven wrung from him by the unappeasable pangs of hunger. A stranger passing near would have no intimation that within a yard of the road 7000 starving creatures had assembled to snatch a meal. Temporary sheds have been erected in different parts of the city to give some kind of shelter, and horrible scenes are witnessed at some of these. Every face bears the pinched, despairing look of mortal sickness or mortal weakness, but withal an expression of resignation, or perhaps of abandonment, to hopeless suffering. The crowding generally precludes any but a sitting posture. The hospitals were filled. In the Madras Presidency things were not so bad, but the distress is only less terrible than that in Bengal. It is, however, not yet so widespread or so bitterly severe. The pressure is apparently greatest in that part of the country which includes the southern Talooks of North Arcot, the north-western Talooks of South Arcot, the western Talooks of Salem, and in the southern and eastern Talooks of Coimbatore. It is also very severely felt in Bellary. The acting sub-collector of Coimbatore, advertising to the straits to which the poorer classes in the Upland Talooks of his division are now reduced, has urged the necessity of immediate relief. He writes that it is impossible not to "be struck with the poverty-stricken appearance of the lower classes, with hardly a rag to cover their nakedness and hardly any flesh to cover their bones;" that "the cattle were even worse off, they were mere moving skeletons; that he had seen wretched beings, with hardly a rag on them, eating the fruit of the prickly-pear and berries from trees;" and that "every night hundreds of poor wretches skulk about the streets of Caroor picking up what wretched garbage they can collect; that the coolies are so weak that, when they first come to the Public Works Department for work, they have to be fed before they can work at all." It is to be feared that a very similar state of things exists in the other districts already referred to; and, as regards the cattle, the collector of Salem reports that thousands have died for want of pasture and water. In one village alone upwards of a thousand head of cattle perished from this cause.

AN IRISH FARMER is bringing an action against Lord Portarlington, it is reported, to recover the value of his damaged hay, which he neglected to put under shelter on the faith of his Lordship's fair-weather prophecy.

THE QUADRILATERAL.

THE lines of the rivers Mincio and Adige are the most important in North Italy, and in them lay the principal strength of the Austrians for a defence against an enemy coming from the west. The Mincio flows from the Lake of Garda, and, after running about thirty-five miles, falls into the Po. The Adige, coming from the Tyrolean Alps, enters Venetian territory at Ossegna, runs through it a distance of 120 miles, and is navigable all the way, being from 16 ft. to 25 ft. deep and from 600 ft to 1200 ft. wide. The two rivers, running nearly parallel at a distance of a few miles, form a strong strategic line. The famed fortresses Peschiera and Mantua on the Mincio, and Verona and Legnago on the Adige, form an irregular square, and constitute the strongest position for defence, having on the right flank the mountains of the Tyrol, and on the left the River Po.

Peschiera, situated on the north-west corner of the square, where the Mincio leaves the Lake of Garda, is commanded by heights surrounding it, which gave it the name of the Spittoon. The town is small, containing about 2000 inhabitants, principally engaged in fishing. Peschiera is connected with Verona by a railway. A treble circle of walls and bastions raised on the surrounding heights enables the fortress to contain an army of at least 30,000 men, thus giving the commander the opportunity to act on the offensive as well as the defensive. The terrain of the upper Mincio from Volta to Lonato, to which, besides, Peschiera, Valeggio and Salozzi serve as bases, is extremely favourable for the defensive. It offers to a General every chance to begin with the defensive and finish off with an attack. The town and barracks of Peschiera are surrounded by strong walls and bastions, which constituted almost its sole defences at the time when it surrendered, on May 30, 1848, to the Piedmontese under Carlo Alberto, after a six weeks' siege. These fortifications, however, are now of very secondary importance for its defence. It has been surrounded by a chain of very strong forts, nine in number, which lie at from half a mile to a mile distance from the town, and about a quarter of a mile from each other. Fort No. 1 is on the shore of the lake looking towards Lombardy. Fort No. 9, on the shore to the north of Peschiera. These forts are all very strong; they are of earthwork, with stone containing walls, are surrounded with moats, and the ground beyond is smoothed and cleared to form a regular glacis; behind they are inclosed in stone walls, crenellated for musketry, and they contain barracks, shell-proof, &c. They mount from fifteen to thirty guns. In addition to these nine forts are the fortress of the railway station, the old and new Mandella and the old and new forts Salvi; these mount about forty guns each. Outside all, to the south, forming the first defence of Peschiera against an army crossing the Mincio, is the enormous fort of Monte Croce, which is 60 ft. high, and mounts upwards of eighty guns; it is, like the others, built of stone, supporting earthwork faces. Peschiera, with this chain of fortresses, appears to be, like Verona, Mantua, and Venice, absolutely impregnable. Most of the barracks of Peschiera are new, and are strong and handsome buildings; indeed, the amount of money which Austria must have spent upon the fortresses of the Quadrilateral since 1859 must have been something fabulous.

Mantua, at the southern point of the line of the Mincio, distant from Peschiera twenty miles, is a town of nearly 30,000 inhabitants, and is one of the few fortresses that inspired even Napoleon I. with respect. It is built in a flat island in the River Mincio, which forms here several small arms and a tolerably large lake, that bound Mantua on the north and east, while the river proper and a wide marsh surround it on the south and west. The fortifications of the town itself are of no great importance, and consist only of an old wall and bastions. It derives its great strength from the forts around it,—Fort Padella, in the marshes on the west, and the strongly fortified island Cerese and Fort Miglioretto on the south. From Miglioretto to Castiglioni and La Mortella stretches a line of detached works that serve to cover an entrenched camp. The fort Piccole commands a system of locks arranged so as to inundate the whole terrain, and without possession of Piccole it is impossible to draw off the water surrounding the entrenched camp, and that fort is therefore, from this side, the key to the fortress. On the north, towards Verona (with which Mantua is connected by a branch of the Lombardo-Venetian Railway) lies Borgo di Fortezza. A strong dyke, called Ponte di Molini, 1380 ft. long, defended by the Cittadelle di Borgo, connects Borgo di Fortezza with Mantua, and serves at the same time to dam the upper part of the lake. On the south a stone bridge, 2700 ft. long, defended by six bastions and two strand batteries, leads to Fort San Giorgio. The large town, the broad lake, and the entrenched camp, together with the system of dykes and locks for inundation, give the fortress such an extent that it would require a very numerous army to surround it. The River Mincio, widening above and below Mantua, and the whole country around being extremely marshy, would render it very difficult for a besieger to construct bridges near enough to each other to secure the necessary support. The besieged, on the other hand, can change with ease from one bank to the other, and attack an enemy where he is weakest. Should he (the enemy) succeed in crossing the river, the garrison, that could be strengthened from Verona by rail, would have the chance or attacking him in the rear, and force him to give battle in the most unfavourable position. The great drawback of Mantua is the marshy nature of the ground, bad water, and general unhealthiness of the country, creating fevers of all kinds. Of course a besieger would suffer from the same causes in a greater measure than the garrison, the last having comfortable barracks.

The fortresses on the line of the Adige are of different value. In our last Number we gave a description of Verona, the north-east point of the Quadrilateral, and need not again dwell upon its merits.

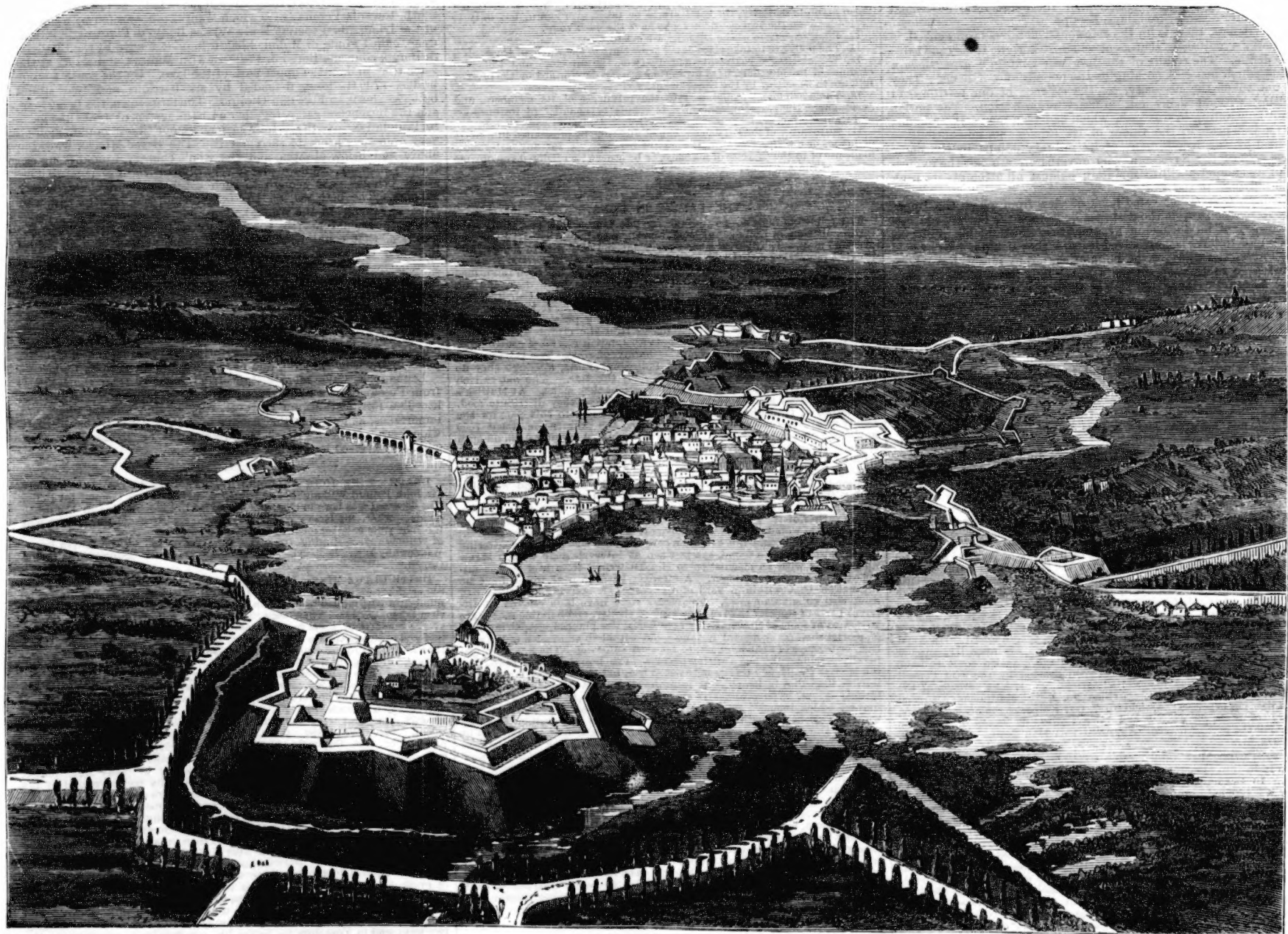
Legnago, a trifle more distant from Mantua than the latter is from Peschiera, is a small place; about 1000 men suffice to garrison it. The fortifications are, however, very strong, and the place is of importance, as guarding the passage of the Adige, which is tolerably wide here. Immense rice-fields stretch away far to the south-west, and are traversed by but few roads.

DEATH OF SIR JOHN WILLOUGHBY.—We have to record the death of Sir John Pollard Willoughby, a member of her Majesty's Council for India. The deceased was born in 1799, and succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of his brother, Sir Henry Willoughby, M.P. for Evesham. Sir John was for some time member for Leominster. This is a branch of the noble house of Willoughby, springing from the Hon. John, son of the fourth Baron Willoughby d'Eresby. The vacancy in the Indian Council falls to the Crown.

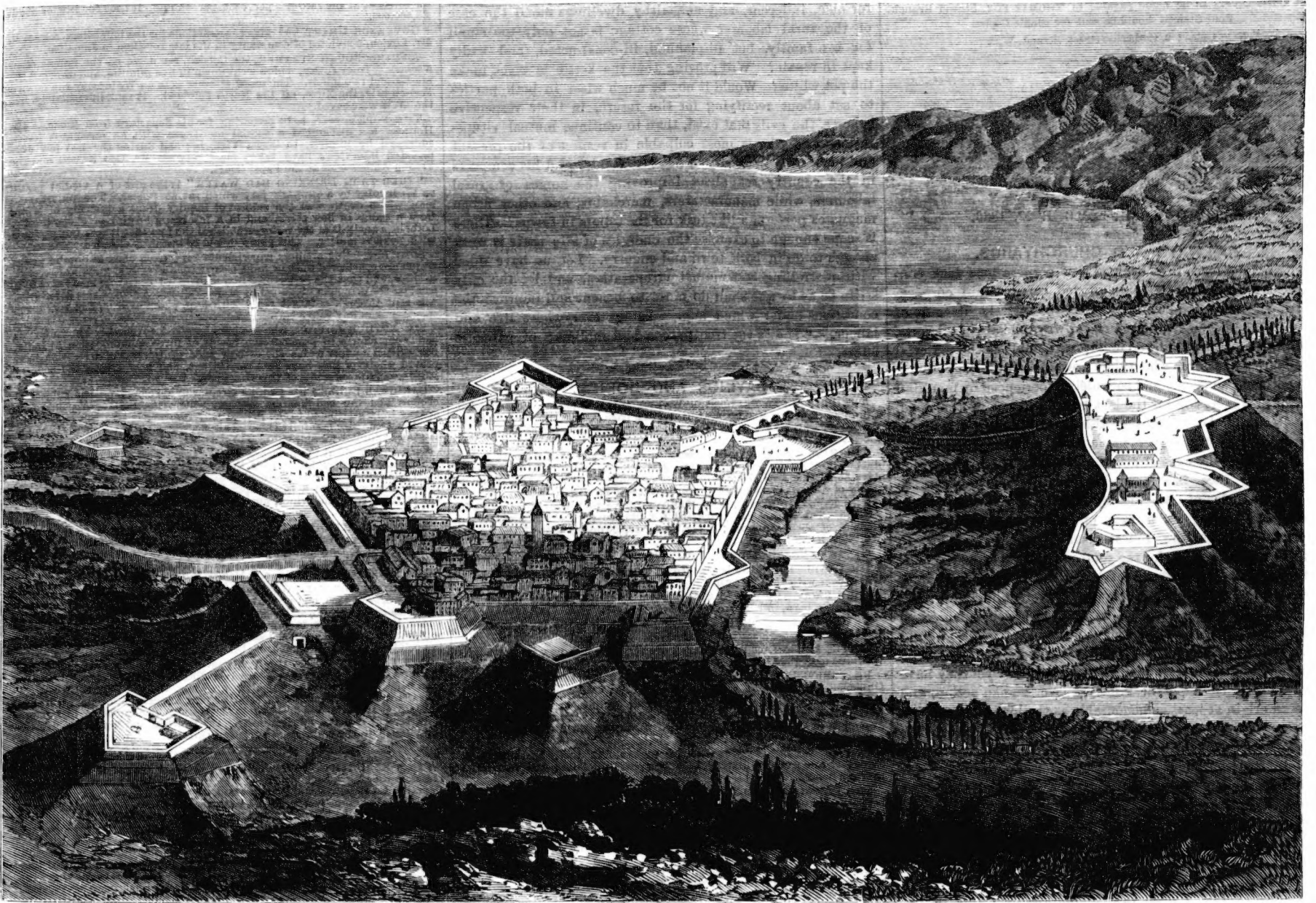
DEATH IN THE MINE.—In the ten years ending with December, 1865, 849,615,952 tons of coal were raised from the mines of Great Britain. The number of coal-miners employed in April, 1861, was, according to the census then taken, 282,473. There were 9916 deaths by colliery accidents in the ten years; one-fifth of them from fire-damp explosions, two-fifths from falls of roof and coal, less than a fifth (17.24 per cent.) from shaft accidents, more than a fifth (21.53 per cent.) from miscellaneous causes in mines and at the surface. During the first five years, 1856-60, 381,067,047 tons of coal were raised, and there were 3089 deaths from colliery accidents; in the next five years, 1861-5, 468,548,905 tons of coal were raised, and if the deaths had increased in the like proportion they would have been 6257, but they were only 4827, a reduction of 22.9 per cent. in five years, or at the rate of 4.58 per cent. per annum in the ratio of deaths to the coal raised. In the three years, 1860-2, immediately preceding the passing of the Duplicate Shaft Act of 1862, 264,358,164 tons of coal were raised, and there were 3178 deaths from colliery accidents; in the three years after the passing of that Act, 1863-5, 266,833,443 tons of coal were raised, and if the deaths had increased at the same rate they would have been 3448, but they were only 2738, showing a reduction of 20 per cent. in three years in the ratio of fatalities to the quantity of coal raised, or 6.23 per cent. per annum. Whatever may have been the cause, it is the fact that the reduction in the number of deaths to the quantity of coal raised has been greater since the passing of the Duplicate Shaft Act. In the year 1865 98,911,169 tons of coal were raised in Great Britain; the number of male coal-miners employed in that year is computed by the inspectors at 315,451; the lives lost were 948, one in every 321 persons employed, one to every 160,519 tons of coal raised. The loss of life in 1865 ranged from one to every 172,944 tons raised in South Durham, up to one death to 53,656 tons raised in South Wales. The Yorkshire district stands nearly as well as the South Durham when tried by this test; and in Yorkshire the loss of life, computed with reference to the number of persons employed, was only one in 656, a far more favourable return than from any other district. In South Wales it was one in every 182 persons employed. These statistical statements were compiled by Mr. Atkinson, one of the Government inspectors of mines.



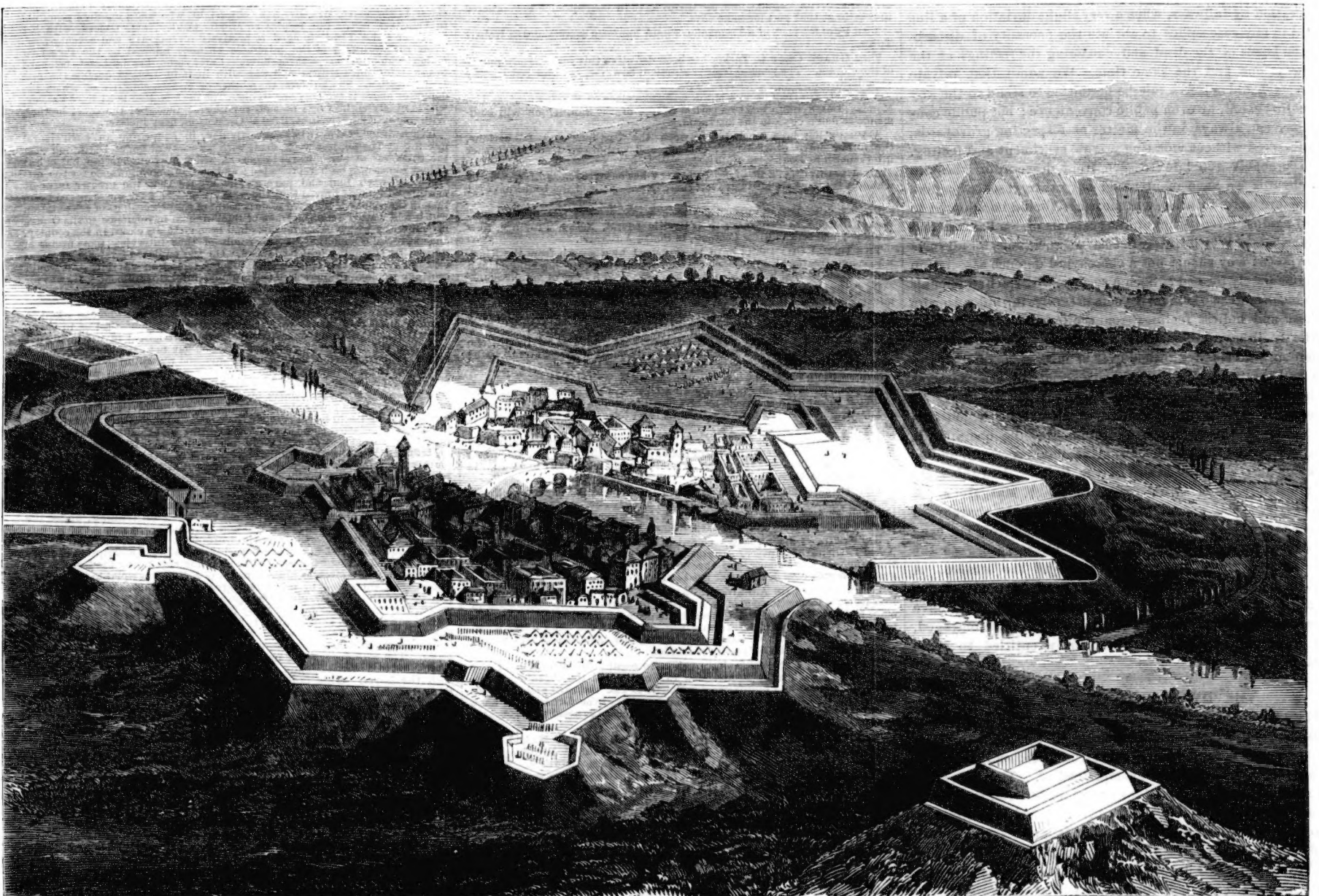
SCENE FROM "OURS," MR. ROBERTSON'S NEW COMEDY, PRODUCED AT THE PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.



THE QUADRILATERAL: MANTUA.



THE QUADRILATERAL: PESCHIERA.



THE QUADRILATERAL: LEGNAGO.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1866.

RAILWAYS AND CHURCHYARDS.

It has long since been decided that corporations lack consciences; and it is now being proved that certain corporations—railway companies, to wit—are utterly devoid of sentiment. Engineers, directors, railway officials of all sorts, seem to be as cold, hard, and unimpressionable as the material of the iron ways over which they preside. There is, perhaps, no sentiment so deeply and so widely experienced by mankind as that of veneration for the last resting-places of the dead. "God's acre," the "Tombs of the fathers," the "Graves of a people," by whatsoever name they may be called, are spots sacred in the eyes of every nation and tribe into which the human race has been divided, and have been so in all periods of its history until now, when there has arisen among us a race of men who respect not even that which the rudest savage would shudder to profane. "Veneration for the tombs of the departed! Pooh! a mere sentiment!" Yes, a mere sentiment; but a sentiment which vibrates through the heart of universal humanity, and is, therefore, entitled to be treated with some degree of deference. "Sentiments" may not have great weight with railway engineers and railway directors, and may even be ignored by their friends in Parliament; and yet they have always exercised a potent influence over human action, and have an origin at least as honourable as the love of pelf which rules so entirely the men of iron who give a tone to the character of the age in which we live.

Well, this sentiment of veneration for the dead and for their resting-places has just received a couple of somewhat rude shocks at the hands of metropolitan railway promoters. The Midland Company has been authorised to appropriate a portion of the Old St. Pancras burial-ground, and the Metropolitan Company has been granted similar powers as regards St. Margaret's churchyard, Westminster. Naturally, these facts have excited a good deal of indignation; and, unfortunately now that it is too late, the conduct of Parliament in sanctioning such appropriations is severely animadverted upon. And with good reason, as we think. There can be no justification for such shameless Vandalism as churchyard desecration by railways, when a very slight deviation of a line would in any case suffice to obviate the necessity of disturbing the bones of the dead and outraging the feelings of the living at one and the same time. We admit that private interests should not, as a rule, be permitted to stand in the way of public benefit, or even public convenience; but public convenience can always, in the matter of respecting graveyards, be subserved without violating private sentiment and feeling. It is probably too late to save from desecration the two churchyards we have mentioned; but other cases of a like nature are sure to arise, and measures should be adopted to guard against a repetition of the scandals of St. Pancras and St. Margaret's, Westminster. We have associations for all sorts of purposes: why should not a churchyard defence association be immediately formed? Such a society, with spirited officials at its head, might do humanity yeoman service in vindicating its highest and holiest feelings from the insults offered to them by the soulless, conscienceless, and sentimentless disciples of Mammon, who ride roughshod over us in this age of company rule and tyranny. We hope to see a society of the character we have suggested instituted ere long.

Besides, there is another point of view from which this cutting up of graveyards is objectionable—the operation is always followed by the evolution of noxious gases, and is therefore hurtful to the health of the living. And this state of things is now in actual existence at St. Margaret's. A hoarding has been erected on the margin of the churchyard to hide the operations of the railway company from the eye; but no hoarding can conceal from the olfactory organs the fact that havoc is being made amongst the graves. A most offensive odour is emitted, which pervades and pollutes the atmosphere of the whole neighbourhood. We thus have the senses as well as the sentiments of the public outraged, and from such outrages we are surely entitled to some protection.

THE DWELLINGS OF LABOUR.

MEN often expend as much wholesome energy in quarrelling as to the share of blame appertaining to this or that individual or class for the existence of an admitted evil, as would go far to rectify the mischief complained of. Thus, we have had a controversy going on for some years between the representatives of the manufacturing and the agricultural interests as to whether the town or the country labourer is the worst lodged; and much useless recrimination has been indulged in on the subject. Even Mr. Henley—shrewd, sensible, and impartial as he is on most topics—has been so unwise as to mingle in this unprofitable discussion. Why, what does it

matter which is worst—town or country—when both are confessedly bad? Will showing that the poorer denizens of large towns are huddled together in unwholesome, uncomfortable, indecent, and unhealthy dwellings mend the case of the rural labourer whose cottage is not only too small for his family, but ill-planned, ill-constructed, and badly kept in repair? Will proving that the kettle is black make the pot white? Would it not be much wiser in both parties to set about rectifying for the future, in their respective spheres, the evils that exist, than to continue mutual vituperation as to who is most culpable in respect of the present and the past? Why should not Mr. Henley and his compeers in the country set about improving the homes of rural labourers, while manufacturers, merchants, and other urban magnates perform a like task for the toilers in towns? There is scope enough to exercise the energies of all; there is work enough to do in both town and country. Let us have done with quarrelling and mutual vituperation, and let the only strife be as to who shall do most to benefit and improve the conditions under which human beings everywhere live and labour. "That's the true pathos and sublime" of patriotic effort.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, it is now understood, will visit Dunrobin Castle on Monday next, travelling from Aberfeldie via Inverness. Great preparations are being made at the castle for their Royal Highnesses' reception.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA is expected about the end of the month in the duchies of Holstein and Schleswig. His Majesty intends to spend some days at Altona, Kiel, Flensburg, Gottorp, and Schleswig. The municipality of Altona is making great preparations to receive the King.

THE KINGS OF SAXONY AND HANOVER have each bought an estate in Austria. The former has purchased for 250,000 florins the property of Rodaun, of about 320 acres; the latter for 59,000 florins that of the "Neue Welt," at Hietzing.

GENERAL BEAUREGARD has left France for New York.

MR. CHARLES DICKENS is engaged on a new serial, which, rumour says, will appear with the new year.

LORD BROUGHAM entered upon his eighty-ninth year on Wednesday, having been born, in Edinburgh, on Sept. 19, 1778.

THE PORTE has decided on accrediting a Minister to the President of the United States.

CATTLE LIFTING and horse-stealing are very rife just now in the neighbourhood of Oran, Algeria.

FREDERICK LILLYWHITE, the well-known compiler of "The Cricketers' Guide," died at Brighton, on Saturday last, in his thirty-eighth year.

THE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE has declined an invitation to the forthcoming reform banquet in the Free-trade Hall, Manchester, on the ground that he does not feel justified in taking "a direct part in the movement."

THE RUSSIANS have succeeded in suppressing the disturbances in Circassia, the Abasians having been completely defeated and their chief taken prisoner.

THE PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT has decided to build a bridge on the Elbe between Hamburg and Harburg.

THE ITALIAN ARMY, even after the reduction required to place it on a peace footing, will still number 250,000 men.

THE 7TH REGIMENT OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF NEW YORK contemplate visiting Europe next year.

MR. EDWARD TINSLEY, head of the young but enterprising and successful firm of Tinsley Brothers, publishers, Catherine-street, Strand, died last week, from a stroke of apoplexy, at the age of thirty-one.

THE SUBMARINE CABLES connecting the coasts of France and England have recently sustained injuries of a nature to interrupt the communications between Paris and London.

A GIFT OF £20,000 has been promised by a lady to Mr. C. H. Spurgeon, to found an orphanage in connection with the Metropolitan Tabernacle.

SOME CASES OF CHOLERA have broken out in the Papal legion which has arrived at Civita Vecchia, and the troops have in consequence been ordered to remain at that port for some days.

THE PUBLICATION of a Tasmanian *Punch* has been commenced in Hobart Town.

THE GRAPE CROP in Turkey has been defective this year in consequence of the oldium. The general fruit production, however, has been remarkably abundant.

A TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE MOON will take place on Monday next, and on Monday, Oct. 8, there will be a partial eclipse of the Sun, which will commence at four o'clock in the afternoon.

A PEACE has been concluded between the Russians and Bokharians, the former have evacuated Tashkend, and withdrawn from all further intervention in Bokharian affairs.

AN UNFORTUNATE BOATING FATALITY has occurred near Liverpool, by which it is feared six men have lost their lives. None of the bodies have yet been recovered.

PETROLEUM DISCOVERIES have been made, more or less, to the north-east of Jericho, in Tasmania; in D'Urville Island, Nelson Province, New Zealand; and on the River Coorong, in South Australia.

THE DUTCH CHAMBERS have been opened by a speech from the King, who congratulated his subjects on the continuance of peace they enjoyed, and approved of the zeal with which they had organised a force of volunteers.

DEAN STANLEY has given his sanction to a scheme for heating Westminster Abbey during the winter, and preparations are now being actively carried on for the reception of the hot-water apparatus. Four boilers are in course of construction for the purpose.

ON THE NEW COINAGE now being struck at the Mint of Berlin, the King's head is surrounded with a laurel wreath—a decoration not to be found on Prussian coins since the days of Frederick the Great.

COUNT DUCHATEL, who was the last Minister of the Interior of Louis Philippe and who is suffering under an affection of the spine, still manages to go out shooting in the preserves of Chantilly, which he rents every year at 30,000fr. for three months. The Count is wheeled about in a Bath chair, and enjoys very fair sport.

A NEW SORT OF GUNPOWDER has been invented by a German chemist, M. Adolphus Neumeyer, which does not explode in the open air, it carries further than common gunpowder, is cheaper, and is so easily made that it may be manufactured on board ship.

THE FOLLOWING SINGULAR MARRIAGE NOTICE is taken from a North Carolina journal:—"By Dr. J. A. Sherrill, at twilight, on Wednesday evening, Feb. 28, 1866, at the house of the bride's widowed mother, Mr. A. A. Gabriele to Miss Lizzie Milligan, after a short but most delicious courtship."

HALF-CROWNS are no longer coined at the Mint, so says a recently-published Parliamentary paper. Florins have taken the place of these pieces in the issue. In like manner, the threepenny-piece is superseding the silver groat; no such coin as the latter has been sent out since March, 1865.

THE STUDENTS OF ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY are already beginning to look forward to the election of a successor to Earl Russell, whose term of office as Lord Rector of the University expires in November. There is a probability of two candidates being nominated for the office—Mr. M. E. Grant Duff, M.P., and Mr. George Grote, the able historian of Greece and Vice-Chancellor of the University of London.

DISTURBANCES IN SYRIA have arisen to occupy the attention of the Porte at a time when the insurrection in Candia and the threatened outbreak in Thessaly and Epirus were sufficient to tax the skill and resources of Turkish statesmen. A Bedouin tribe has joined the Druses, who have defeated a detachment of Turkish troops, and proceeded to assail and slaughter their old foes, the Maronites, in Lebanon.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS being completely abolished at Madrid, there is a plan on foot for a Spanish journal to be published at Brussels, to be written by the editors of some of the suppressed Madrid journals. Should the project be carried out, we may look for some extraordinary revelations.

THE VILLAGE OF VADJANS (Ibère), a commune of 800 inhabitants, has been almost totally destroyed by a conflagration, kindled, it was supposed, by a child playing with lucifer-matches in a barn. Out of thirty-four houses, of which the village was composed, seven only remain. A very small number only of the buildings were insured.

THE BODY of the late Prince de Condé, eldest son of the Duc d'Anjou, has been brought to England from Sydney, where the young Prince died of fever in May last, and was on Saturday last deposited with solemn ceremony in the vault beneath the Roman Catholic Chapel at Weybridge, wherein lie the remains of King Louis Philippe, his Queen, and other members of the exiled Royal family.

THE GREAT EASTERN reached her moorings at Liverpool on Wednesday morning.

ITALY has entered into sixteen loan operations since the Treaty of Zurich, making a total of 324 million lire, or about £130,000,000, requiring for interest, at the rate of 5 per cent per annum, 162,000,000 lire, or about £6,500,000.

GOVERNOR GRANT had given instructions for the immediate release of Mr. Levien, convicted of complicity in the late rebellion in Jamaica.

A SCARBOROUGH STEAMER, the Cobden, ran down on the Suffolk coast a schooner from Fowey, which went down in five minutes, and drowned the master and two hands. The screw-steamer Beta on Wednesday ran down a French brig, the Xiste, off the North Foreland. It sank immediately, but the crew were saved.

THE POPE appears to be preparing for his departure from Rome. His Holiness has dispatched a special messenger with an autograph letter, addressed by himself, to Queen Victoria; and during the last few days repeated interviews have taken place between Mr. Odo Russell and the French Ambassador at the Papal Court.

"DIED FROM DRINKING BAD WATER" is the gist of a verdict passed on Wednesday by a coroner's jury which sat at Poplar. The unfortunate man whose death was the subject of inquiry drank a quantity of water from a pump in Bow-creek, and in a few hours he died of cholera. Dr. Letheby's analysis of the water established the fact that it was impregnated with noxious matter. This pump should be instantly closed.

SOME interesting artillery experiments have taken place at Shoeburyness, which are considered to show more clearly than ever that guns are superior to ships, and that the best projectile yet invented are those made of chilled iron, on the principle suggested by Major Palliser. A shot of this description was sent through a target faced with 8-in. plates of iron, and very much stronger than any ship afloat.

SIR ARTHUR COTTON, who has been long and favourably known for his persistent efforts to promote the means of intercommunication in India, has written a paper which shows how successful works of irrigation have proved wherever they have been carried out, and how greatly the country still lacks improvements of this character.

CARDINAL CULLEN has issued a circular to his clergy on the subject of cholera and the bad harvest weather, which, his Eminence points out, are not to be attributed to the British Government, but to the chastening hand of God. He manfully exhorts his flock and their shepherds not only to pray to Jupiter for aid, but also to put their shoulders to the wheel.

THE STORY about the Prince of Wales having sent £100 to the widow of the pitman recently killed near Newcastle-on-Tyne by the train in which his Royal Highness was journeying to Scotland turns out to be untrue, as the woman writes to a local paper to the effect that she has not received one farthing from the Prince, nor any intimation that anything will be sent to her.

A LINE OF STEAMERS has been established to run between New York and the ports of Northern Europe. They will call at Southampton, and then proceed to Gottenburg, in Sweden; thence to Copenhagen, Denmark, and connect with smaller steamers to and from St. Petersburg and Riga, in Russia; Königsburg, Stettin, and Memel, in Prussia, and the Baltic ports.

THE HUGE HORSEFALL GUN, made at the Mersey Steel and Iron Company's works in 1856, and presented to Government, is now lying under the heavy sheers at the Royal Arsenal wharf at Woolwich for transport, it is stated, to Tilbury Fort, to protect the entrance of the river. The gun is well known from the place it took in target-practice at Shoeburyness. It is a solid forging of wrought iron, bored out.

THE TRADE IN ROSES, as is well known, is of considerable importance in France. Rose-trees are cultivated in different parts of the country in open fields, just as turnips or cabbages. Thus, there are 500,000 rose-trees near Orleans, 200,000 near Metz, 1,000,000 near Angers, 1,500,000, near Lyons, 2,000,000 near Paris, and 2,000,000 in the thirteen communes of Briss-Comte Robert. The varieties called Rose-Thé, the Bourbon, and Mousseuse, flourish particularly in the environs of Paris and Orleans.

PARIS EXHIBITION, 1867.—A distinct order of reward of a novel character, consisting of ten pieces of £400 each, has been announced by the Imperial Commission, and British competitors for these rewards are to send in their claims on or before Nov. 1 next, in order that, if the claims appear suitable, they may be transmitted to the International Jury, which it is announced will meet on Dec. 1, 1866. These rewards are "in favour of the persons, establishments, or localities which, by a special organisation, or special institutions, have developed a spirit of harmony among all those co-operating in the same work, and have provided for the material, moral, and intellectual well-being of the workmen." Besides these rewards there are twenty "honourable mentions." Moreover, one grand prize of 100,000fr. (£4000), in addition, will be awarded to the person, establishment, or locality distinguished under this head by a very exceptional superiority. Three jurors are assigned to the United Kingdom, and their names will be shortly announced.

LONGEVITY OF A FAMILY IN OXFORDSHIRE.—There are now living in Oxfordshire a sister and two brothers remarkable for their great age. They were all born at Bicester, and their united ages are 286. They are all in tolerable health, and retain their faculties in an extraordinary manner. The eldest is the sister, Mrs. Hannah Cartwright, who was a hundred years old in February last. She resides at Middle Cowley, near Oxford, with her daughter and son-in-law, aged respectively seventy-five and seventy-four. Their scanty living is the miserable pittance allowed by the Poor-Law Union, which just keeps them alive. Cartwright, her husband, belonged to the Oxfordshire Militia, and was with it in Ireland during the first Irish rebellion. She has been the mother of sixteen children, of whom the daughter above is the only one living. The next brother is Richard Baseley, who is ninety-eight years of age, residing at Bicester; the other brother, William, aged eighty-eight, lives at Chesterton, near Bicester.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES.—Mr. Henley, in addressing an agricultural meeting at Thame, last week, dealt with a variety of topics, beginning with the cottages of agricultural labourers, which he thought were not so bad as had sometimes been represented; and, making no allowance for the difference between foul and pure air, he argued that the greater rates of mortality in towns proved that the working classes were worse lodged there than in the country. He gave some account of the proceedings of a deputation which had waited upon the Duke of Buckingham in reference to the Orders in Council by which cattle markets had been virtually closed in the country, and expressed a hope that, as the result of that interview, some means of mitigating the evil might be devised. On the subject of reform he sagaciously expressed the opinion that, until the question was settled, it would continue to make shipwreck of Government after Government. He was for a moderate and judicious settlement, but he did not give his auditory a more explicit statement of his opinions. On the subject of labourers' cottages, Lord Leigh says:—"I do believe that landlords who can afford it, and are anxious to benefit their estates without permanent loss to themselves (if such a thing were possible), are shortsighted in not laying out money in the erection of good, comfortable, but not extravagant cottages, rented, of course, below their money value, and regarding the money so invested in these buildings in the same way as they would regard farm-buildings, draining, or other permanent improvements on their estates. Now we every day see owners of property, and careful men, moreover, satisfied to sink money in substantial farm-buildings and expensive machinery, and also satisfied to see their land and machinery worked by an ill-housed population; and I venture to think that landlords who are considering the prudence of laying out money in good cottages may safely do so, trusting that the same course of years to which they are content to look for a return for the money they have laid out in brick and mortar for the reception of farm produce would also bring them interest in the increased health and vigour of their labourers."

THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.—For some time past Mr. John Browning, a gentleman well known in scientific circles, has been erecting, under the supervision of the Astronomer Royal and Mr. Glaisher, a new set of instruments for registering the speed and pressure of the wind. As the instruments are both near completion, and are indeed in operation, a description of them cannot be read without interest. The first, for registering the force of the wind, consists of a circular plate of metal of a diameter equal to two square feet in area, supported by eight tempered steel springs. When the wind impinges on the circular plate the springs are brought consecutively into action, the stronger coming into play before the weaker have received any strain. The plate is kept constantly facing the wind by means of a direction vane. From the plate a fine flexible wire is carried down through a hollow pillar which supports the vane, the whole apparatus being in a room below. The wire governs the motion of a pencil, which is made to traverse a table covered with slate, on which is strained a sheet of paper, marked with the hours. This table is moved by clockwork, and the pencil, being regulated by the pressure-plate, registers on the paper the pressure of the wind during every portion of the twenty-four hours. The instrument, which is capable of registering as light a pressure as even two or three ounces on the square foot, will in strong gales have to withstand a force of 40 lb. to the square foot. The next instrument is for the purpose of registering the velocity of the wind. This consists essentially of four hollow hemispherical cups attached by arms to a central spindle. These keep revolving at one third of the velocity of the wind. The motion of the spindle is reduced by a train of wheelwork, and the register is by indices on graduated circles, showing respectively tenths of a mile, miles, tens of miles, and hundreds of miles; one of the wheels has a rackwork motion attached to it, which communicates by means of a rod with a pencil inside another room. This pencil is carried over a paper strained on a cylinder. The paper is marked with the hours, and the pencil registers automatically and continuously the velocity of the wind during both day and night. The velocity at Greenwich has never exceeded 800 miles in the twenty-four hours, but at Liverpool greater speeds have been registered. It may be added that it is intended eventually to prepare a set of new tables showing what velocities are usually prevalent during the currency of certain pressures, and vice versa.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

SIR JOHN POLLARD WILLOUGHBY, BART., who died the other day, was the brother, and inherited the property, of Sir Henry Pollard Willoughby, who was so long a member of the House of Commons, and noted as a very honest, acute, but somewhat dreary critic of finance. Sir John was in Parliament only for a few months. He was elected for Leominster, as the colleague of Mr. Gathorne Hardy, in 1857; but, in 1858, he was made a member of the new India Council by the Earl of Derby's Government, and had to resign his seat in the House. Sir John had lived long in India, held office there, and was thought to be a great authority on Indian affairs; hence the choice of him to be a member of the Council when the government of India was transferred, by Act of Parliament, from the Company and the Board of Control to the Queen. Sir John was said to be a man of ability by those who knew him; but he certainly, during his short Parliamentary career, showed no signs of it. He spoke two or three times on Indian affairs, but he made no impression upon the House. He seemed to me to be very much like his brother, minus his brother's acuteness. But still he may have been a man of good, solid understanding and very useful at the India Council Board; for, as the tradesman who makes but a scant show in his shop-windows may have a very valuable stock behind, so there are many solid, wise, and useful men who cannot show off their qualities in speeches. It is, as one said, no sign that the wine is better than it effervesces and sparkles. "Which will you have, still hock or sparkling?" asked a landlord of the president of a dinner party. "The best," was the reply; "but if both are alike good, the sparkling." There is a man in the House of Commons who is famous for his rattling, sparkling speeches. For an hour together and more he can keep the House roaring with laughter and cheers by his wit and caustic criticisms. Well, he was put in office once; but there he was a dead failure. The dullest clerk in the department could do the duties of the post better than he.

There is a rumour flying abroad that Disraeli is bent upon introducing a reform bill next Session, and that the Earl of Derby, in the language of Lord Melbourne, replies to all entreaties, "Can't you let it alone?" I know nothing about the origin of this rumour, but I think it very likely to be true. The Earl of Derby does not want place. Had he not been urged strongly to take it he would have declined it. The emoluments are, of course, nothing to him; the honours not much. In place or out, he is still the Earl of Derby, the descendant of the Stanley whose name stands conspicuous on the Battle Abbey roll of the knights who came over with the Conqueror, and the chief, as he must be while he lives, of the Conservative party of England. In short, he has all the honours that any man can wish for. Moreover, he is, though not old (only sixty-seven), gouty, and wants peace and quietude. And, further, I fancy that he feels that there is something incongruous in a Conservative Government proposing to extend the suffrage—something that looks like swerving from principle to retain office. But with Disraeli all is different; he has no hereditary honours and none of the prestige of wealth. True, he belongs to a very ancient race and to one of the illustrious families of that race; but such an honour is not current in England. It would be a great thing to be able to trace your descent from King William; but a descent from Abraham confers no honour. In short, Disraeli owes all his fame to his political position, and without it he would be nothing. And having got to the highest political position he naturally, being excessively ambitious, is anxious to retain it; and to retain it he sees that he must get this reform question settled; and I think he will, if he can overcome his chief's reluctance, propose a measure. As to scruples of conscience, he has none of them; he never was plagued with a queasy conscience. Show him that the ballot and household suffrage would lead to the permanent instalment of the Right Hon. Benjamin Disraeli in office, and he would adopt them without scruple, and by ingenious rhetoric prove that the time had come when they ought to be conceded, and that not he, but the times, had changed.

Messrs. James Greenwood and Ernest Grist are, I hear, engaged—the former as author and the latter as artist—upon a companion volume to their "Hatchet-Throwers" of last year. "Legends of Savage Life" is the title of the forthcoming work, which, I doubt not, will be characterised by all the excellencies of writing, illustration, printing, and get-up generally, which distinguished its predecessor.

Do your readers know what "knock-outs" are? Perhaps not; so a little information may be acceptable, particularly as the season for the usual quarterly crop of sales by auction is approaching, when protection to both sellers and honest buyers is greatly needed. Well, then, a "knock-out" is managed in this way: whenever a sale by auction of furniture or other effects is announced, a gang of harpies who call themselves "the trade" band together for the purpose of securing all the most desirable lots. This they do by first depreciating the goods exposed in the hearing of respectable purchasers; if that does not succeed in frightening said purchasers off, they are pettered to allow the crew to buy for them "on commission"; if that is still unsuccessful, bullying, insults, threats, and running up the lots to unreasonable prices are the tactics employed. Then, as this game occasionally involves loss, but most frequently secures excellent bargains, a second auction takes place among the members of the gang, when the lots, of course, are fairly appraised according to value. The surplus profits realised are shared among the conspirators, by whom also any losses sustained are borne in common. It is clear that, under this system—which has now obtained such a hold as to make public auctions in London a mere farce—no fair competition is possible. A seller is defrauded of a large portion of the value of his goods, and honest buyers must either refrain from bidding or submit to be fleeced by the promoters of "knock-outs." A correspondent mentions a case where goods professionally valued at upwards of £450 only realised about £200; and this is merely one out of hundreds of instances that are constantly occurring. Some remedy for this evil is urgently needed; and, I believe, were auctioneers generally to adopt the practice pursued by some West-end auctioneers—notably one house in High Holborn—the mischief would speedily be cured. The firms I refer to have a policeman stationed in their rooms; and whenever any interference with legitimate buyers is attempted, or any effort to unfairly influence the sale is made, the offender or offenders are speedily ejected. Other auctioneers should do likewise.

The subject of crop-saving, to which you directed attention last week, is one of great importance and interest. I have had opportunities within the last few days of seeing whole fields of different kinds of produce (barley, beans, peas, and even occasionally wheat and oats) standing in the fields discoloured, sprouting, and spoiling in every way—and that, too, in some of the earliest districts of England—which a little energy and ingenuity might easily, as it seems to me, have saved. Conversing on the subject with a practical engineer, the other day, he suggested that drying-sheds, such as you had proposed, fitted with perforated iron floors, amply ventilated above, and with a hot-air generating apparatus beneath, would completely answer the purpose. The only point of difficulty he saw was as to the expense of erecting such sheds. But surely the grain saved from destruction would in a few years cover that. As illustrating what may be done in regard to grain, perhaps you will make room for the following letter from "a Colonist" as to what is done in Ceylon in respect of coffee:—

When we consider the small amount of rain in the aggregate or at one time which falls in this and other countries in the temperate zone, compared with the like within the tropics, say as 30 to 90, 100, 120, 140, or even larger figures, one is surprised that means have not yet been devised to secure our corn crops from injury as effective as some of those in use for safely housing many kinds of tropical produce. To mention one, coffee is cultivated in Ceylon at from 1000 ft. to 4000 ft. of elevation above the sea. The lower-grown coffee is ripe some weeks before that grown on the higher ranges, and the weather and climate of the lower lands are generally more favourable to the processes which have to be adopted. These, so far as they are carried on at plantations, are to pass it through a machine which deprives it of its pulpy, juicy covering, to wash the mucilaginous matter from the beans (still covered with a parchment skin), and afterwards to dry them. As often happens after a few partial gatherings, a crop of many thousand bushels becomes ripe altogether, and requires to be gathered at once or the fruit will fall to the ground. Much anxious care and watchfulness is re-

quired to dry off all without injury to the quality and value of this very delicate staple. On the lower estates, thanks to a powerful sun, this is generally accomplished by spreading the coffee to dry on the barbeque or mortar-laid platform, or even on mats. But on the higher plantations, where the rain falls almost continuously during the earlier monsoon months, artificial means have to be resorted to so as to dry the produce that it may be sent to the shipping port in good condition, to be finally prepared and sent to Europe. Mr. Clerihew's patent, of which a model appeared at the Exhibition of 1851, accomplishes this object perfectly, and is almost universally adopted in the island. It consists of fanners, worked by a waterwheel or any other power, to draw a stream of dry air through the floors of a building on which the wet parchment coffee is laid sometimes 18 in. thick. By these simple means crops, which would otherwise have rotted in the store, are made to reach the port in the most excellent condition. Cannot something like this be applied to corn in wet seasons, first to the ears, accurately taken off by a machine for that purpose, and then to the straw?

I have been permitted to have a peep at Doré's designs for "Elaine." They are fully worthy of his established reputation, one of them—Lancelot riding to Astolat—being especially fine. The great Frenchman appears in this instance, as in that of the Bible, to have exercised a powerful effort to repress any tendency towards the grotesque. This may possibly have been done in accordance with the wishes of the Laureate, or by Doré's own sense of the serious character of the Idylls, but it is calculated to hamper his hand to some degree. The sketches are being engraved on steel in the best manner. It remains to be seen whether Doré, whose genius seems especially adapted for translation by wood engraving, will show to as good purpose on metal. A very early proof of one of the plates which I was allowed to see proves that, at all events, his character will not be lost. The Christmas book which will thus present to us Doré and Tennyson in a new form ought to be looked for with interest.

Mr. Mayall is exhibiting a lifelike portrait, produced by "solar camera," of the great American philanthropist, Mr. Peabody. The likeness is excellent, and the arrangement and accessories assist in rendering the resemblance to a portrait in oils very remarkable. This large picture, I am told, is the second which has been taken of the benevolent Yankee, who carried the other off with him for presentation to the Danvers Institute.

Mr. Orridge, one of the members for the ward of Cheap, is making most energetic and praiseworthy efforts to induce the Common Council to do honour to "eminent Londoners." In May last Mr. Orridge drew attention to the fact that the "record of disbursements for public purposes contained in the Corporation Pocket-Book showed that the sum voted by the Court in honour of the most eminent names in literature, philanthropy, science, art, or the learned professions does not amount to a yearly average of £20." He now enumerates some of the famous citizens of London, and reminds the Council that the Corporation records form the most ancient and complete collection of archives in the world, but that they are completely lost for lack of liberality and intelligence on the part of the civic authorities. He winds up with a pertinent remark that the Corporation would have escaped the satires and severities with which wits and artists, authors and caricaturists, have assailed them in all ages, if they had shown "more liberality of purpose and a higher appreciation of intellectual position." I very much fear, however, that, in spite of his warmest endeavours, Mr. Orridge will fail to convince the aldermanic mind that there is anything in this world of greater moment than callipash and callipee, and that "an intellectual feast" means anything more than a Lord Mayor's banquet with speeches after it. But his proposal is a really wise one; and, if the civic authorities do not move in it, I still hope—if they will throw no obstacles in the way—that some enterprising author or publisher will be found to avail himself of the records to compile a history of "Great Londoners."

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

The *Fortnightly Review*, No. XXXII., is not lively, but it is good; and the account by Mr. A. J. Patterson of "A Hungarian Election" is readable and picturesque, as well as wise and full of suggestion. As to Mr. George Meredith's "Vittoria," it is hopeless to attempt to do more (in a notice like this) than call attention to its extraordinary power. Take a passage strictly at random:—"It was like the face of a dead savage. The eyeballs were full on Vittoria, as if they dashed at an obstacle, not embraced an image." There is more of the strength of poetry in this little scrap than in yards of what takes the name of poetry. Isolated as the fragment is, I know very well it will impress the reader's imagination, and dwell there—especially if I add that it is the face of a woman which is described.

In the *Contemporary* there is a great variety of excellent reading; but this number is not as bright as the review ought to be. The subjects upon which it may be consulted are—the scope for works of usefulness which exists in a busy London life, the relations of the Teutonic peoples to the first propagation of Christianity in Western Europe, the authorship of the "Imitation of Christ," and the history of the doctrine of the Divine right of kings. There is a careful and intelligent review of "Felix Holt," at the end of which the writer of the article collects in one view the poetic mottoes to the chapters. These were, of course, George Eliot's own; and I hope to have something to say about them some day. I purposely left them alone in noticing the book itself, because to touch them at all is a task of great difficulty and delicacy, requiring much preliminary attention and balancing of critical observation. In reviewing, or rather noticing, the novel itself, I made the mistake of adding "hard labour" to the sentence of imprisonment on Felix.

The *British Controversialist* is a monthly magazine which is not so well known as it ought to be. Imagine the best of the papers read at a superior sort of Discussion Society, printed, along with summaries of good books, reports of good speeches, and the like, and you have some idea of the contents of a number of this well-managed periodical, to the getting up of which I can assure the reader there must of necessity go much intelligence and much hard reading. But the "Literary Notes" rather bother me. "Mr. B. H. Cowper" is surely Mr. Basil Cooper? though I may be wrong. The "news" about Mr. Charles Hemans, son of the poetess (one of the sons of the poetess?) is about a twelvemonth old. What is "Mr. H. T. Tuckerman's Table Talker"? I never heard of it, and don't believe in it. The following is really "rich":—

A testimonial has been got up in the United States—under the management of G. W. Curtis—in behalf of Herbert Spencer, one of the great philosophic thinkers of this country. Why has it been left to a far land to minister to a great man's necessities?

Mr. Herbert Spencer has no "necessities" which require the kind of ministrations here pointed at; and, if he had, the "testimonial" in question wouldn't help him, I fancy; for I have read that it consists of "shares"—and I don't believe in them either.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The LYCEUM opened on Saturday. The romantic drama, of which "The Duke's Motto," "Bel Demonio," and "The Bride of Lammermoor" were such admirable specimens, is dethroned, and realism reigns in its stead. But it must be understood that it is realism of a high order—not coarse, vulgar reproduction of common materials. It is photography, but photography of a good sort, coloured and touched by the hand of an artist, and beautifully framed. Mr. Boucicault's new drama of "The Long Strike" is a well-told and compact story, the incidents of which are far from improbable. The time is the present. The scene is laid entirely in and near Manchester, with the exception of one scene on board a vessel in the Mersey. The piece begins with the collision of operatives and master manufacturers, which is soon merged into a personal interest, and a simple and affecting love tale. The principal characters are a haughty, heartless young "master;" an honest and high-hearted young foreman of engineers; a loving, true-hearted Irish sailor; an old workman—dogged, determined, and high principled; and his daughter, self-willed, vain, and tender. The drama is liberally mounted and admirably acted, the chief honours falling to Mr. Emery. Our London theatres have gained an acquisition in the person, bearing, voice, and artistic intelligence of Mr. Cowper, of whom I am glad to augur good things. Mrs. Boucicault is as charming as she was

as Arrah-na-Pogue and the famous Colleen; but this time she speaks in a Lancashire dialect; and Mr. Boucicault plays the small part of the Irish seaman excellently. Mr. Widdicombe makes a powerful impression on his auditors as an irritable, good-hearted lawyer, whose words are stones and whose deeds are Samaritan. Too much praise cannot be given to the "mounting" of "The Long Strike." The delegates, played by Messrs. Howard, Robinson, and Harding, and the operatives, so truthfully reproduced by Messrs. Reynolds and Power, are masterpieces of dramatic photography. Having been so far complimentary, let me object in the strongest terms to the last act of the new drama. The ship scene is a stagey impossibility, as ineffective as it is unreal; and the trial scene so violates the well-known customs of a criminal court as to approach the ridiculous. In a drama where details are so highly elaborated the leaders on circuit should not have been young men. The dialogue is well and nervously written, the best things being reserved for the mouth of the Irish sailor. If Mr. Boucicault will only consent to alter his last act, "The Long Strike" is sure to enjoy a long run.

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE does everything to sustain its title as a home for comedy of the new school. Two plays—"War to the Knife" and "A Hundred Thousand Pounds"—from the pen of Mr. Byron, and the brilliant "Society" of Mr. T. W. Robertson, have already secured for the house a reputation as producing really new and original pieces which were neither old nor second-hand. Mr. Robertson's latest three-act effort, "Ours," is a fresh step in favour of that reputation. After a triumphant, though necessarily brief, career in Liverpool, this comedy was played in Tottenham-street for the first time last Saturday evening, and received by a crowded house with a degree of enthusiasm which left no room for doubt as to its longevity. Without the slightest pretence to intricacy of plot or sensationalism of incident, "Ours" will make its way entirely through the merit of its dialogue. It would be a difficult thing to overpraise the eccentric brilliancy of the talk which sparkles through this piece. The audience listens to one repartee after another in a silence which literally enables one to hear a pin drop, and the round of laughter and applause which follows each successive witticism can only be compared with the tail which follows a comet. It is a painful task to find fault with such exceptionally clever writing; but I cannot help thinking that the play would be more perfect if the few verbal contortions which now disfigure it were excised. A little misplaced levity of conversation and "business," which has crept into the last act, might also be removed with advantage. The acting was, as a rule, admirable. Mr. Clarke represented an apparently misanthropic but really beneficent brewer with an amount of earnestness which astonished his audience, and made several fools in the gallery laugh when they should have held their tongues. It is a sad thing—but a painfully evident one—that a man who has a reputation for humour must never try to be serious. Mr. Hare was perfect in his make-up and very nearly perfect in his performance. Mr. Frederick Yonge, who is a stranger at this house, played the part of a comic sergeant (in "Ours") with great cleverness. Mr. Ray was very solid and sensible. Mr. Bancroft was not so good; he should take off his cap whenever he enters a room, though it may be only a Crimean hut. It is reported that this gentleman found fault with his part and threatened to throw it up at Liverpool. I should rather like to hear the part's opinion of Mr. Bancroft. The ladies were all that could be wished: Miss Larkin dignified, Miss Marie Wilton irresistible, and Miss Louisa Moore charming. The mounting of the piece was eminently realistic and the incidental music well chosen and well executed. There can be no second opinion as to the talent or the success of "Ours." The space to which I am limited will not permit me to analyse the story of the piece in detail, but I may mention that the title, "Ours," is military in its signification; that the play opens a little before the war with Russia, and that "Ours" is ordered to the Crimea, where the closing scenes are laid. The scene selected for illustration by my collaborator, the Artist, is in the second act, and exhibits the farewell given to "Ours" as it takes its departure for the seat of war. After the comedy, Miss Lydia Thompson made her first appearance at this house in the "Pas de Fascination." She is as lively and choreographic as ever, and was well received.

A MOUNTAIN PICNIC.

PERHAPS few people would go up a mountain for the sake of eating their dinners on its summit; but, having once gone up, it is desirable to have something to do when one gets to the top; for, in good truth, the top of a mountain is to the majority of people a great disappointment which they are too cowardly to acknowledge. Peak-climbing has become a fashion, and, like crinoline, it has held its own just because it is a fashion, although valuable lives have been uselessly sacrificed every year to the absurd mania for getting a few feet higher than, or going up a different way from, anybody else. It may be doubted whether an attempt on the part of a muscular enthusiast to climb St. Paul's Cathedral on the outside would be regarded otherwise than as the act of a maniac, and, even should he succeed in accomplishing the feat, his family would keep an eye on him, while the newspapers would ring with such an instance of misdirected energy; and yet there is an Alpine Club, and a score of promising young men venture life and limb in expeditions which have no result whatever, except that of vaunting muscular condition and exhausting strength and health which might be devoted to some purpose which would benefit mankind. There is not one mountain in ten which once in a year is worth scaling; and if tourists who are mountain mad were not afraid to acknowledge their own real convictions, they would confess that the high peaks are a complete disappointment. Either covered with mist, or so far from all underlying objects that there is no view except a vast extent of mere cloudy shadows, seen through a medium which takes out colour and reduces them to one pale watery tint: high peaks in Europe, at all events, offer no recompense for the toil of reaching them. A voyage in a balloon over London is more picturesque and less dangerous than half the excursions by which hopeful gentlemen sacrifice their lives to the whim of getting atop of something which somebody else, or perhaps which nobody else, has been atop of, and found to be a gigantic mistake.

Having said our say about high climbing, and declaring our belief that mountains were not intended for men to exercise their legs upon with barren purpose, we hasten to assert that mountaineering on accessible slopes and crags is one of the most charming incidents of travel. Mountains viewed from the distant plains, or plains, lakes, and valleys seen from slopes of mountains, where their beauties are not too distant to take all enchantment from the view, are the delight of the artist and the tourist; but neither the lover of nature nor the artist could ever get any satisfaction from mere altitude. All, and more than can be found in this way, may be secured by the simple expedient of lying on your back in a field and looking up at the sky, where the gorgeous cloud-scenery far surpasses in extent and beauty the earthward spectacle from the summits of snow-wreathed peaks.

Be contented with the happy medium, however, and mountaineering is a genuine pleasure—a mountain picnic beneath the snow-line one of the most delightful repasts in the world, even though it be within sight of Mount Cervin, known now as the Matterhorn, but not on the Matterhorn itself. This magnificent obelisk of rock, starting from its enormous glacier, occupying a vast and desolate table-land, has been made into a monument of human folly. The rude fortifications on its top, the precise intention of which is now uncertain, and which are only celebrated as having been erected on the highest spot on which such buildings are to be found in the whole world, seem somehow to typify the useless ambition of A., B., and C. to get up a few feet higher, and by a more dangerous road, than D., E., and F., which has cost four out of six precious lives, and set an ill-example to a host of imitators, who will, if the fashion be not changed, give the awful obelisk a new significance, changing it from a monument of folly to a monument of death.

MR. JOHN OXENFORD is engaged upon a dramatic version of Mrs. G. Linneus Banks's novel, "God's Providence House," for Sadler's Wells Theatre.



SUMMER HOLIDAYS: A PICNIC ON THE ALPS.



THE WORCESTER MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

WORCESTER MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

THE "Festival of the Three Choirs" was brought to a termination on Saturday morning last. The closing ball was not attended so largely as had been anticipated, the party mustering about 150, although they did not represent by many the number of guinea tickets actually disposed of. The ball was held at the Guildhall, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion. This building, which has the reputation of having been designed by the architect of St. Paul's, is much and deservedly admired by visitors. The vocal principals were:—Soprano, Mmes. Titiens and Lemmens-Sherrington; contralto, Mmes. Sainton-Dolby and Patey-Whitlock; tenor, Messrs. Sims Reeves and Cummings; bass, Messrs. Santley and Lewis Thomas. The conductor was Mr. Done, the cathedral organist.

The programme of the festival included daily morning service in the cathedral, in the vocal part of which the associated choirs assisted. Notwithstanding the dreary aspect of the streets and the copious rain, there was a very good attendance at the early morning service at the cathedral, at half-past eight o'clock, on the opening day, Tuesday, the 11th instant. The Venite Chant was sung to No. 4 Cathedral selection, and the Psalms to 64. The service was Wesley's chant service in F, and the anthem "Praise the Lord"—Goss; the verse being sung by the members of the choir of Hereford Cathedral. The members of the Worcester and Gloucester Cathedral choirs also attended, and the "three choirs" were assisted by chorists from several other cathedrals. The service was on the whole admirably rendered, the choirs keeping remarkably well together, although we believe they had had no opportunity of rehearsal. The morning service was not concluded until ten o'clock, and the Corporation (who attended in state) and such of the congregation as had been honoured with invitations to the Mayor's breakfast had to make the best of their way at once to the Guildhall, where the Mayor of Worcester (Mr. T. Southall) and Mrs. Southall were in waiting to receive their guests. These numbered about 350, and included the Dean of Worcester and Mrs. Peel, Sir T. E. Winnington, M.P.; Mr. Dowdeswell, M.P.; Mr. Sherriff, M.P., and Mrs. Sherriff, and most of the principal inhabitants of the city and neighbourhood, the stewards and their ladies, and many of the visitors to the festival. The repast was of the most recherché kind.

On the second morning (Wednesday, the 12th) the service was Onslow in A, and the anthem (Aldrich), "Oh, give thanks!" On Thursday, the 13th, Dr. Wesley's fine service in E was given, with Green's anthem "Oh, clap your hands!" On Friday, the 14th, the service was Croft's in A, anthem (Boyce), "Oh! where shall wisdom." These services were all well attended; and, as collections were made after them at the cathedral doors, a considerable sum was thus added to the charity fund. The other performances included the "Elijah," "The Messiah," the overture to the second part of Spohr's "Last Judgment," the grand and impassioned Mass in C of Beethoven—the first, best known, and most liked by the general public of the two works of this class which the great tone poet has bequeathed us—a rather ample selection from "Joshua," and the splendid "Lobgesang," or "Hymn of Praise," of Mendelssohn.

With regard to the amount realised for the charity by this festival, the following are represented to be the actual amounts received:—Tuesday, £174 19s.; Wednesday, £312 6s. 10d.; Thursday, £203; Friday, £225 12s.; total, £1215 17s. 10d., as against £1064 13s. 5d. in 1863. There are also other donations expected, which will no doubt swell the amount to at least £1300, which will be the largest collection ever made for the charity, we believe, at any one of the 143 meetings of the three choirs. The attendance shows an increase of no less than 2550 over 1863. It should be observed that the whole of the collections are always appropriated to the charity, without any deduction on account of the expenses of the festival, which, until last year, generally exceeded the receipts, the expenses being made good by the stewards. Lately, however, there have been frequent surpluses. As far as can be at present ascertained, the liabilities of the stewards will fall short of the receipts by some £500, which will go to the funded property of the charity. The receipts for the sale of tickets have been over £4500. The stewards may therefore be congratulated on the results attained; and it must be satisfactory to the new honorary secretary, Dr. Williams, that his arduous labours have been crowned with a success even exceeding that which waited upon his immediate predecessor, the late Rev. R. Sarjeant. We are glad to hear, moreover, that Mr. Townshend Smith has already secured a capital list of stewards for the Hereford Festival of next year.

AN IMPORTANT SWIMMING-RACE.—The swimmers' St. Leger, as it is called, is to take place in the Lambeth Bath, next Monday evening, between some of the swiftest swimmers of the day, including Henry Gurr (the champion of England), whose marvellous skill in the water has earned for him the sobriquet of "the flying fish;" and David Pamplin, called "the scudding seal," from his singularly wonderful swimming prowess and remarkable grace of style. The last two or three contests in which these aquatic celebrities have swum have resulted in a dead-heat between them, a most exciting race may be anticipated on Monday, the prize—a gold medal and the captaincy of the London Swimming Club—being valuable enough to cause each to swim his fastest to win. The same evening there will be several races for prizes between some of the finest amateurs of the day. On Tuesday afternoon another noteworthy race is to come off. There is to be a mile race in the Thames, at Hammersmith, for Sir William Fraser's gold medal.

SHORT WEIGHT AND MEASURE.—An interesting ceremony took place a few days since at Hitchin, in Hertfordshire, which we heartily wish was a good deal more common. Early in the morning the town crier made his appearance in the market-place with a bunch of straw plait fastened on to the end of a stick in one hand and his bell in the other, and made the following proclamation:—"Notice is hereby given, that this bunch of plait was sold in the Hitchin market, on the 24th of July last, as measuring eleven scores and ten yards, whereas it was found to consist of two lengths of eight yards each, thirteen lengths of seven yards each, and three of six yards only, making together only six scores and five yards. This plait was made by (the name of the delinquent is suppressed by the local paper describing the ceremony), and she would have been prosecuted for her dishonesty, but in consideration of her having confessed her guilt to the inspector, it is resolved that the plait be publicly burnt in the market, which will be done accordingly." By order of the committee of the Straw Hat Manufacturers Association.—Thomas Erskine Austin, secretary. The condemned plait was then held up to the indignation of the offended people in the market-place, and afterwards burnt by the town crier.

THE TUNNEL THROUGH THE ALPS.—An Italian scientific paper (*Il Giornale del Genio Civile*) furnishes the annual report of the progress made by the tunnel through the Alps. By this report it appears that towards the end of last June the International Franco-Italian Commission, composed of MM. Somelier and Gratton, officers of engineers, as commissioners for the Italian Government, and of MM. Perrier (inspector) and Du Mouhis (engineer-in-chief of roads and bridges), for the French Imperial Government, proceeded to the annual examination of the progress made at the two ends of the Alpine tunnel. At Modane, on the French side, the Commissioners ascertained that the progress made amounted to 2321 metres; of this 2031 metres were completely finished. At Bardonecchia, on the Italian side, the tunnelling was found to extend to 3470 metres, of which 2533 were finished; and the Commissioners satisfied themselves and reported that all the conditions of the Paris convention of May 7, 1858, had been properly carried out. The excavation through the quartz formation had proceeded but slowly, in consequence of the rock becoming harder the further the work was carried; nevertheless, 230 metres had been excavated through it. The quartz rock had been met with at the exact spot anticipated by the geologists and engineers, and was not expected to extend beyond the 400 metres originally suggested. In a couple of months it was expected the masonry would have reached the point at which the tunnel began to pass through the quartz, when all timbering would thenceforth be dispensed with. On the other hand, the work at the Italian end is reported to have made more rapid progress, in consequence of the softer character of the material to be passed through. The report concludes by stating that the total excavated up to July 1 last amounted to 7798 metres. On referring to the report of 1865, we observe that the total length of the tunnel, when finished, will be 12,280 metres, or about seven miles and three quarters, and that there were the last annual report 1375 metres, so that the work has progressed since the last annual report 1375 metres, and there remain 6182 metres still to be excavated before it is completed. We observed some time since, in an Italian paper, that the French and Italian Governments had determined to reward the employés for any improvements which they might effect in the excavating machinery by a percentage on the saving effected thereby, as well as upon all receipts arising from opening the communication between the two countries through the mountain before the stipulated time. Supposing, however, the work to progress at only the same rate as heretofore, nearly five years must elapse before its completion.

FINE ARTS.

THE NEW MOSAIC AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

IN the quaint old Jerusalem Chamber, where our fourth Henry breathed his last, and where, if tradition tell truth, our fifth Henry first fitted on the crown during his father's lifetime, there is at present to be seen by the favoured few who are, as it were, the tasters for the public, a very large mosaic representing the Last Supper, and intended for the altar-piece of the Abbey.

The work is one of considerable size, 12 ft. 6 in. in length by 5 ft. 5 in. in height. It is executed in the Byzantine style, from a design by Mr. Clayton. The peculiarity of the Byzantine style of mosaic as distinguished from the ordinary marquetrie work, with which the public is best acquainted, is that its tesserae are not cut into geometric shapes, but are made in irregular cubes, so that when they are set in the cement which forms the bed there are, in some instances, considerable interstices observable through which the sub-lying material is seen. This is, of course, but little observed in large works seen at a proper distance and in a proper light. It is to be hoped that the mosaic will be better placed by the Dean and Chapter than those executed for the South Kensington Museum have been by the authorities there. At the museum the mosaics are placed high above the spectator's head, with the light falling on them strongly from above, so as to exaggerate any little irregularities of surface and dazzle out entirely the figures by the intense brilliancy thus given to the gold ground. We doubt whether the South Kensington specimens will ever be fairly appreciated unless this glittering surface be toned down—possibly by a careful use of emery-powder, so as to frost it, as it were.

Mr. Clayton's design is simple and telling, and has been rendered with spirit and taste by Dr. Salviati, who is doing so much to reinvigorate the manufactures of Venice. Attention has already been drawn in these columns to the beauty and cheapness of his revived manufacture of Venetian glass on the old models. He is also commissioned to supply all the mosaic—no small quantity—for the Albert Memorial in Hyde Park.

The mosaic now on view at Westminster is to be fitted into a moulding of alabaster, and will, no doubt, appear to advantage in the Abbey, where the gold background will acquire value from the sombre light thrown by the painted windows. The drapery and faces are excellently rendered, when we consider that the mosaic is of the irregular or monumental order. Dr. Salviati can, however, turn out very fine work in the more minute style. Specimens of portraits in mosaic may be seen at his establishment, 431, Oxford-street—one of the late Prince Consort, in particular, being as delicate in gradations of colour and shade as a painting.

This new method of ornamentation is one that will suit our smoky climate well, for, the colours being between films of glass, a bucket of water and a sponge or mop will do the work of cleaning without risk of injury. Considering how much we want colour in our ornamentation and with our dull skies, Dr. Salviati deserves every encouragement.

INDUSTRIAL PARTNERSHIPS.—At a meeting held at the Whittington Club on Tuesday evening measures were taken to establish an Industrial Partnership Clothiers' Company in the metropolis. Dr. Burns, who presided, referred to the success of the co-operative movement in the north of England as an irrefutable argument in favour of similar experiments in London. He gave a very lucid explanation of the principles upon which the projected company would be based. Further explanations were given by other speakers; and the resolutions, which were of an eminently practical character, met with a unanimous and enthusiastic response from a crowded meeting.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SEA.—A bottle has been picked up at Ventnor, Isle of Wight, containing a paper on which is inscribed the following message:—"Her first voyage to England. June 17, 1866. The Spanish Queen, bound for Bristol with timber from Quebec, having left on the 5 of March, and, owing to the rough weather, which has lasted 9 days, the old ship leaks like a sieve, and we are settling down fast. All hands are worn out at the pump, and captain is ill upon deck, but is riting a note to put it in a flask. It is my last wish if this bottle is picked up that it may be published in some papers, as I have a Dear father and mother, and I should like them to know I died happy. There is no hope for us. I shall not throw this over till the last. Hands in number, 23. I remain yours, GEORGE J. MILLS."

THE LIFE-BOATS ON THE DEVON AND CORNISH COASTS.—Most of the life-boats on the Devon and Cornish coasts have just been visited by the secretary of the National Life-boat Institution. He found the establishments everywhere in excellent order, and reflecting much credit on the assiduity of the several local committees, and on the care of the coxswains of the boats. The secretary was gratified to learn from the crews of every one of the life-boats that they possessed the utmost confidence in them, and that they were ready to go aloft in them in the stormiest weather. During the past winter some noble life-boat services were performed on the Cornish coast. The St. Ives boat was twice upset during a hurricane, yet her brave crew persevered, and were determined that they would themselves perish rather than the shipwrecked Frenchmen should meet a watery grave on their coast. Ultimately the life-boat crew saved four of them. They belonged to the brig Providence, of Granville. The Emperor of the French was so impressed with the bravery of this service that he has sent a gold medal to Levett, the coxswain, and a silver medal to each man of the crew. These honours were presented at a public meeting held on the 14th inst., at St. Ives, Lady St. Aubyn handing them to the brave fellows on the occasion. Again, noble services were rendered by the Fowey life-boat in rescuing during a fearful storm twenty-two men from the barque Drydens, of Shields, and the brig Wearmouth, of Sunderland. The Penzance and St. Ives boats saved last spring during the gale of wind—the whole of the crew of the steamer Bessie, wrecked on Hoyle Bar, where the Isis life-boat rescued, on the 10th inst., eight of the crew of the brig Nicholas Harvey. The Bude life-boat saved four men from the schooner Johnson, of Exeter, and the St. Ives life-boat again rescued four men from the schooner Earl of Zetland, of Amble. In times of yore some of the Cornish boatmen were conspicuous for their wreckage; but in the present day, no men distinguish themselves more than they do in readily perilling their own lives to save those of others. The Institution has now ten life-boats on the coast of Cornwall, and seven on that of Devon. In fact, all the life-boats on the shores of both counties belong to it. Others are nearly ready to be sent to Looe, in Cornwall, and to Brixham, in Devon. Altogether the life-boat society has a noble life-saving fleet of 172 boats under its charge, and it contributes every year to the saving of between 700 and 800 lives from shipwreck.

"BROTHER IGNATIUS" AND THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.—We have authority to state that the Archbishop of Canterbury has never sanctioned either the reappearance in London or anywhere else of the English Order of St. Benedict, or the adoption of any of the Benedictine rules by the association of which the Rev. Joseph Leyscester Lyne was once the superior. If such a proposition had ever been made to the Archbishop he would at once have forbidden its being carried into execution. All that the Archbishop of Canterbury engaged to do, in consequence of the spontaneous promise on Mr. Lyne's part to submit absolutely to the Archbishop's orders, was to admit him as a deacon to serve a curacy in his diocese, but without any express promise as to priest's orders; and, if the incumbent whose curate he should be permitted to, to allow two laymen to live with him and work in the service of the Church under the incumbent. They might live, if they pleased, according to rules, provided those rules were not inconsistent with the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England and did not in any way interfere with the performance, on Mr. Lyne's part, of the duties of an ordinary curate under the direction of his incumbent, or, on the part of the laymen, with their obligations as lay assistants in the parish. The Rev. Mr. Lyne was thus to be placed in a state of probation; and it remained to be tried how far such a brotherhood as thus described could be carried on in complete subordination to the parochial system under the direction of the Bishop. It is not true that the Rev. J. L. Lyne has been appointed to the curacy of Margate. The general object as regards the society to which Mr. Lyne belonged was to alter its character and constitution and to render its organisation directly subservient to the use of the Church by making it the means of enlisting a larger amount of lay agency in her service. All the existing members of it were to place themselves at once under the direction of the clergyman of the parish in which they resided, promising to work according to his orders, provided the Bishop consented, and acknowledging no superior authority. The Archbishop has given no orders or permission beyond this, and it remains to be seen whether this system could work for the benefit of the Church. The Order of St. Benedict, together with a promise to obey in everything the Archbishop's orders, were the conditions on which alone the Archbishop consented to have an interview with Mr. Lyne; and nothing whatever has since been settled definitely or agreed upon between them, save what has been mentioned above. The Rev. J. Lyne having now, as it appears, committed himself to his former associates in a way which renders it impossible that he should any longer submit implicitly to the Archbishop's orders, and having announced his resolution to adhere to the system pursued at Norwich, except as to the dress and name, it is useless any longer to put Mr. Lyne under the proposed probation or to attempt further to direct his proceedings.—*Herald*.

SHIPWRECK OF THE NETHERBY EMIGRANT SHIP.

THE ship Netherby, 1220 tons, belonging to the Black Ball line, from London for Brisbane, with 452 Government emigrants on board, and also a large cargo of railway iron, was wrecked on the night of July 14, on the coast of King's Island.

The ship had arrived almost at her destination, after a very favourable voyage, having reached the Strait; but the weather for some days previously had been of such a character that no observations could be obtained. At half-past seven p.m., while the ship was going about five knots an hour, land was seen, but so close that in less than three minutes from the time when the first sign of danger was observed the Netherby struck on the rocks in Fitzmaurice Bay, on the western shore of King's Island, almost at its extreme southern end, and about thirty-five miles from the lighthouse. After the ship struck on the rocks, finding the water gaining on the vessel, the captain set all hands to work to get up stores from the hold; but before much had been done in this way the lower decks were flooded, and at last the only thing to do was to wait for the day. The night was passed in great suspense. The general expectation was that the ship could not live it out, but there was no confusion. Sunday morning breaking found them still safe, and, the fog lifting, showed them the shore about a quarter of a mile distant. Even then their look-out was awful, for with sunken rocks, breakers, lines of surf, and a rugged, inhospitable shore before them, the aspect of affairs remained imminently dangerous. The ship had five boats, but one broke up before it could be used, and two others were smashed before all were landed, for the weather became stormy. The getting on shore was at last achieved by fastening a line to the land and working the boats along it like a ferry-boat running on a wire. Even then the boats could not be taken further than the outside of the lines of surf, so the passengers had either to wade waist deep to the shore or be carried thither. It was raining, too, and when, after many hours, the nearly 500 souls on board reached the land, they were in a wretched plight. The ship was almost under water, but many things floated ashore, to their comfort. Among other matters were some sails, and these furnished tents. But the greater number of persons sheltered themselves beneath such impromptu mia mias as they could manufacture out of the thick scrub. The worst they had to endure were the cold nights and the short provisions. Altogether about 25 barrels of flour, oatmeal, and biscuit floated ashore, and these, though injured, were the staple means of subsistence, eked out by a few walleye, &c., which were caught. There would have been more, but though guns were plentiful, powder was scarce. One boat remained serviceable, and the captain managed to pay visits to the wreck, when all in the way of stores that could be reached was thrown overboard that they might be washed on shore. It was thus that some cases of preserved meat, wine and beer, and some passengers' luggage were recovered. The meat, which provided but a short allowance, was mainly kept for the women and children, and served out in daily ½ lb. rations. At first the daily allowance was ½ lb. of flour or oatmeal to each person, but later it was increased to ¾ lb. Unless more had been got from the wreck, this would have lasted but a short while, for just before relief arrived it was found that the remaining flour was in great part damp and useless. Luckily, good water was found a mile and a half from shore. It was in this miserable plight that the poor people waited for succour, Captain Owen and his officers doing all they could, and Dr. Webster, the ship's doctor, never ceasing his attentions or care for the general health. Happily, there was no sickness, and the only remarkable event was a birth, one of the female emigrants (Mrs. Cubbins) being brought to bed of a girl in this desolate spot. After a week's exposure the shipwrecked people were gladdened by the sight of her Majesty's steamer Victoria coming to their succour. One of the Netherby's crew, the day after the wreck, volunteered to make for the lighthouse, at the further end of the island—a most difficult task. He, however, succeeded in reaching it, where he procured a whale-boat, and with two others pulled off for Barwon Heads. This they luckily reached, and by this means reached Geelong, where the Victoria and the Pharos steamers were at once dispatched to the scene of the wreck. As soon as the Victoria and Pharos had anchored, all boats were at once employed in bringing the poor creatures off the island, but most of them had to wade through the surf up to their waists before they could get to them. All, however, were safely got on board. The Netherby was insured at Lloyd's.

EXILE IN SIBERIA.

A LATE number of the *Czas* of Cracow publishes the following extracts from a letter addressed by a Polish exile in Siberia to his family:—

On my arrival at Alexandrowsk I was confined during a whole year in a narrow and ill-ventilated cell, without being once allowed to go out. We were all strictly forbidden to speak to, or communicate with, anyone, especially with those who shared our melancholy fate. During the whole year I had large and heavy chains attached to my feet; but, although I have a wound on the left foot, they did not hurt my flesh very much. At the expiration of the year I was employed on the works, and it was a great relief to me no longer to be confined. The labour, besides, was not very painful at Alexandrowsk: we had to cut down trees in the forest, and to transport clay, sand, and bricks to build the Imperial factories and other constructions. We received 20 kopeks (83c.) daily—a sum intended to provide for all our wants, except clothing, which was furnished by the Government. Our yearly outfit was composed of two shirts, two pairs of leather shoes, a lined pair of trousers, a *khalat*, or very long caftan, with the ace of diamonds on it—a mark of disgrace—and a cap with ear-coverings. That was our parade dress and uniform on review days. The trousers and *khalat*, being made of tissue of cowhide, wore out very fast and soon became ragged, but the pieces served us for making short waistcoats. After some time spent in this manner, a sudden change took place in our position. The authorities came to a decision only to leave to Alexandrowsk those who were condemned for life; and we who had been sentenced for six or four years only were sent to Sevastopol, from which place I now write. You think, perhaps, that our lot has been bettered by this change; it has, on the contrary, become much worse in all respects. Our guards and superintendents are brutal and coarse, even to savageness; they act as if they had a peculiar spite against us. They seemed at first to have taken a resolution to brutify us by hunger, cold, and unexampled ill-usage. One day, driven beyond our patience and no longer masters of ourselves, we revolted. We turned out our officers and drove back the soldiers and Cossacks who attempted to subdue us. But, being very inferior in number, we should have ultimately been crushed had not our fellow-countrymen in confinement escaped from their dungeons and come to our assistance. Thanks to them, the victory remained with us for a moment, but eventually proved our misfortune. This revolt, in fact, was followed by an inquiry, and a judgment pronounced with much éclat and ostentation. M. Lechtouiski, a native of Volhynia, who was our steward and man of business, was condemned to eighty strokes with the knout and hard labour for life. Twelve years have been added to the penalties already pronounced against MM. Oeska and Sztziger. As regards us, they have let us off with an additional year of exile. Since then our guards have behaved with more circumspection; they do not ill-treat us so, but we still suffer a great deal from hunger. I dread the winter season; I have been told horrible things about it. Let the cold be ever so piercing, they force us to be the whole day in the forest, without shelter, at a distance of thirty-five versts from the place where we live, and where there is a boat-building establishment. My heart sinks within me whenever I hear people talk of the misery that awaits us. We have been allowed to leave the sort of barracks provided for the convicts by the Administration, and to inhabit a sort of hut we have built, or rather dug, in the ground. They are excellent winter abodes. Our huts form a hamlet, which we have called Warsaw. Everything has been arranged there according to the advice of M. Marczewski, a distinguished engineer, who is not only very much beloved by his fellow-countrymen, but also much respected by the Russians themselves, on account of his superior talent. So we have here the streets called Cracow Suburb, New World, Old Town, Senators', &c. But our capital rather resembles a town of Esquimaux than a European city. We are building ourselves a church and Sunday-school. For our amusement we have organised a theatre and an orchestra, but there seldom is a performance without some disagreeable adventure. More frequently it is owing to some drunken officer at the head of a detachment, who breaks open the doors and puts actors and spectators to the rout. There are many well-educated and enlightened persons among us who afford instruction to the others; we are glad to cultivate our minds without ever forgetting our beloved country. Our greatest pleasure consists in taking a walk on Sundays, especially in summer, for there are also boulevards in our Warsaw! What we are most in want of is a priest to converse with us about God, but there is no possibility of getting one. All the transported priests have been sent to the manufactures of Akatuya, situated in vast and uninhabited steppes; for there is nothing that Russians stand more in fear of than the priests.

DISCOVERY OF SKELETONS NEAR DRIFFIELD.

ON Garton Hilltop the county of York has erected a splendid memorial of the late Sir Tatton Sykes. This structure is fast nearing completion, and early in last spring preparations were made to level the irregular ground around the monument. Just north of the monument the Great Wold In-trenchment which runs from Warton Wold to the Dances Graves—some fifteen miles—crosses Garton-hill, and it was requisite to remove some of the great central rampart in levelling the ground. In doing this some human skeletons were found, laid east and west, interred in the natural ground (after the formation of the rampart), these graves having been cut through the forced earth, as shown very clearly by the section exposed. The in-trenchments are regarded as being the earthworks of the Britons—unmistakable British tumuli being on both sides the line, and the adjoining lands yielding flint implements and weapons. In fact, the greater part of these tumuli have been opened by Messrs. J. R. Mortimer and R. Mortimer, of Fimber (two zealous antiquaries who have done much in the investigation of the archaeology of the Wolds), and they have also, during the summer months, been engaged in a very careful investigation among the burials in the British in-trenchments. These gentlemen have exhumed in all forty-three bodies; preserving the skulls and other necessary bones in each case, and mapping the positions. Messrs. Mortimer report that in all cases the bodies were laid on their backs with their heads to the west. Certain burials showed marked features, as follow:—In the grave, just over burial No. 19, the tusk of a boar was found, and still higher over this and Burial No. 18 were the teeth of sheep and the hog, a vertebra of an ox, and a few detached human bones. Similar deposits were found in other places among the soil of the ramparts. Burial No. 23 lay on its back, with the knees slightly pulled up, and upon the breast lay the greatly decayed remains of an infant, the humerus of which measured scarcely 3 in. A thin layer of dark unctuous matter was observed beneath the remains of the child. The femur of the adult in this burial measured 16½ in.—doubtless mother and child. As the work proceeded it was found that the burials were not only below, but also in the materials of the mound or rampart; and in the bank, fully 2 ft. above the last-named burials, and at a few feet distant, an iron Anglo-Saxon knife was found, exactly of the pattern figured in "The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon," page 404, fig. 13. There was also the rim of a very hard-baked vessel. It was matter of doubt, however, whether these had reference to any particular interments. Burial No. 25 lay on its right side, with the right hand up to the face, and the left on the hips. No. 30 was laid on the back, with the knees brought near to the chin, in the accepted British fashion. On the left shoulder of No. 31 the point of a small iron implement was found, evidently deposited with the burial. From under the jaw of No. 38 one valve of a marine shell—*Pisumella Tunbata*—was taken, which must have been so deposited at the time of inhumation. With these exceptions, all the burials were in the Christian fashion, east and west. The forty-three burials examined consisted of both male and female adults and children—the toothless old man and the sucking child being there. Several small pieces of British pottery were met with in the rampart, and in three cases fragments were found close to the burials. In addition, several fragments of mediæval pottery were found, but not near the remains. By referring to the plan of the burials it was found that one was doubled up, eight were more or less so, and the remainder were at full length. The arms of some bodies were at length, and others were crossed in various directions, and in five cases one arm was doubled to enable the hand to reach the head. Mr. J. R. Mortimer suggests that from the above facts the burials were those of a transition period, when the flexed mode of interment was gradually giving way to the extended—the Christian fashion of after times. Why the inner rampart of a British in-trenchment should have been selected as a cemetery, and by what people, are interesting questions not at present to be solved. Mr. Mortimer regards the burials as being of one tribe or family of people, later than the Britons. During the latter part of the explorations Miss Sykes, of Sledmere Castle, was present, and related that the late Sir Tatton Sykes remembered that when the high road from Sledmere to Garton was formed the rampart was cut through, and that twelve bodies were then found, and two more had since been met with. Thus, independently of several highly-decayed remains, a total number of fifty-seven burials are accounted for in a space of twenty yards, or little more. If the rampart throughout is also a cemetery, many hundreds of bodies are there interred. Trials to test this question will doubtless be made, in the hope also of determining to what people and to what age the burials belong.

NEW BUILDINGS AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.

A COPY of correspondence between the Treasury and the Art Department has lately been published with reference to the new buildings at the South Kensington Museum, together with a plan of the structures as proposed to be completed. The Art Department, by Mr. Bruce, addresses the Treasury, and states that the Committee of Council on Education, having obtained knowledge of its requirements as to space and characters of the buildings in question, have caused plans to be made for the consideration of the Treasury and Parliament. This is followed by a description and history of former structures placed on the same spot since 1856, comprising the "boilers," which cost £15,000, as voted by the House of Commons, besides a considerable sum which was devoted to the purpose by the "1851 Commissioners." £10,000 was voted by the former for removal from Marlborough House of the offices once placed there. The Sheepshanks Gift, 1857, required a fireproof gallery, which was erected at South Kensington, at a cost of £3500; this is of permanent character, "but did not form any part of a general design." In 1858-9 the Turner and Vernon pictures were removed to this place, it having been found more convenient and cheaper to erect fireproof galleries there than to adapt the riding-school at Carlton-ride; so says Mr. Bruce. These buildings cost £8198; and subsequently £4000 was expended on a "long fireproof gallery." Thus, before 1860 and any general plan was matured, £10,689 was expended on buildings so far partaking of a temporary character that they were not designed as any part of a general scheme. Portions have since been worked into it. A Committee of the Commons, in 1860, recommended a further expenditure of £44,000 for buildings, part of a defined plan, and did not specifically recommend that plan, which was submitted by the department. The plan submitted by the late Captain Fowke was estimated by him, roughly, to cost £214,000, and to give 6,500,000 cubic feet of buildings at the respective cost for various portions of 31, 44, 61, and 1s. per cubic foot for the whole. Generally on this plan two large courts, with surrounding cloisters, five picture-galleries (rooms?), two art schools, four official residences having architectural pretensions, workshops, offices, &c.; in total, 3,292,936 cubic feet, or rather more than half the space proposed in 1860, have been erected, at a cost of £92,987, or 6d. and a fraction per cubic foot, being lower than the average of the aforementioned cost per class. It should be added here, however, we think, that the "decorated" part of the structures is in great proportion yet to be built. This will, probably, considerably alter the average of the estimate. Of the part remaining to be constructed, 777,581 cubic feet are in progress, nearly finished, comprising lecture theatre, refreshment-rooms and corridor, forming the central block of the ground plan, and connecting those which are already in existence. Of this nearly complete portion the cost is reckoned at 1s. per cubic foot, making £38,879. To provide for the growing wants of the art and education divisions of the museum, libraries, school of naval architecture, laboratories, &c., it is proposed to add 9,001,969 cubic feet of space to the amount already erected; thus making a total of 13,974,476 cubic feet, instead of 6,500,000, as proposed in 1860. The total cost of the erected and proposed buildings is estimated at £481,072, including decorations, inside and outside, but not pictures, mosaics, bronze-work, and the like, which it may be expedient to insert from time to time. Mr. Bruce then proceeds to compare this estimated cost with that of the British Museum, which exceeded £1,100,000, for a smaller area than that at South Kensington, being 1s. 6d. per cubic foot; the Royal Exchange cost 11d. per cubic foot; the Houses of Parliament between 2s. and 3s. per cubic foot. We presume, however, that the three examples interdicted included cost of all decorations, as is undoubtedly the case in the last: an estimate which, moreover, is said to have been hugely enhanced for lack of a defined plan of operations, and by means of repeated extensions beyond the boundaries of the original plan. In reply to this statement of Mr. Bruce, Mr. W. Cowper and Mr. Bruce himself, in another capacity, report to the Treasury and recommend that certain specified portions of "an amended plan," as not of immediate necessity, should be delayed in execution and others proceeded with; these, including others already in existence, and having cost £119,000 will cost £195,000 (in all, as at present contemplated, £314,000). These gentlemen further recommended that the additional sum should be expended in four years. To this the Treasury replied, approving the outlay of £195,000, but declining to consent to that expenditure in a shorter period than six years.

THE HUNGARIAN EXILE, Franz Pulszky, has received permission from the Emperor to take up his residence in Hungary. It is believed that he will establish a political journal in the capital.

THE FOLLOWING ADVERTISEMENT appears in a Western (American) paper:—"Engaged—Miss Anna Gould to John Candal, city marshal, both of Leavenworth, Kansas. From this time henceforth and for ever—until Miss Anna Gould becomes a widow—all young men are requested to withdraw their particular attentions."

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—In the National Gallery Enlargement Act, passed on the 6th ult., it was agreed that St. Martin's Workhouse was to be purchased for £67,000, and that one third of the amount (£22,333 6s. 8d.) was to be paid within a month of the Act passing; a further sum of £15,000 on the 1st of January next, and the remainder, £29,666 13s. 4d., on the 1st of August, 1867. According to the 8th section of the Act, on payment of the first instalment all the buildings, land, and hereditaments mentioned in the agreement were to be vested in her Majesty for the purposes of the Act. It is further provided that the right of occupation is to cease at the expiration of the time fixed by the agreement, whether there is then a new workhouse provided for the parish or not. The guardians are to use the workhouse without paying any rent until the 1st of October, 1868, or any other day agreed upon, but not to be later than the 31st of December, 1869, or one year after the payment of the purchase-money.

Literature.

Ten Miles from Town. A Poem. To which are added Miscellaneous Poems from the Cornhill, &c. London: W. Freeman.

You will often hear it said that it is easy to produce verses. But it is only easy by comparison. The number of persons who can compose verse, of decent correctness even, is but small, as any man may observe for himself. The majority of educated persons have only very poor ideas even of such simple matters as rhyme and accent, and will fearlessly offer for your admiration chopped prose which has neither one nor the other. They think nothing, for example, of interchanging dactyls and spondee at random—nothing of "rhyming" *mine* with *time*, *chains* with *flames*, *horror* with *follow*, or the like; and they are serenely satisfied with their own performances—just as a baby fancies it has achieved a triumphant success when, upon being charged to say *apple*, it splutters and says *boo*. If correctness alone be so difficult, so much the result, when we get it, of a special knack, what shall we say of *variety* of music, or of that fundamental quality in versification which distinguishes poetry from verse? Some of our readers may, perhaps, fancy there is no such fundamental quality apart from correctness and variety; but there is, though we could not well describe it without going into the whole philosophy of the subject; and we are speaking now of the mere versification, be it understood.

As to what goes beyond that—the quality which often gives to what is nominally prose a character which the best judges agree to call poetical—the case is still more decisively made out as to its rarity. This is a two-sided quality in the same mind, or a quality which exists in two shapes in different minds; and, again, we cannot venture to describe, because there is not room for the precision which could only be attained in so subtle a matter by profuse illustration. But one thing almost every reader, not to say every student, of good literature will recognise—that, while writers of verses which are accepted with pleasure for the sentiment, and writers of verses which have a rhetorical vividness which passes for something poetical, are not so very rare in these days of culture, a poet is, as he always was, a Phoenix. And then comes the question whether any given writer is so much a poet that he would, under any circumstances—e.g., supposing there had been no literature of poetry accessible to him—have produced poetry? In other words, whether he would, as children say, have ever "begun it" if it had not been begun. Setting aside this and other unanswerable or only half-answerable questions, our readers know how rarely we have had to speak the decisive word—this is poetry—in any form whatever. There is Mr. Swinburne, there is Mr. Buchanan, there is Miss Ingelwood. Then, in another rank and order, there was a Mr. Tuckerman, and the author of "Christ's Company, and other Poems" (whose name we forget), whose books, both containing real though not very strong poetry, were published by Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. To the same order belongs Mr. W. Sawyer. His "Ten Miles from Town" we take to be a mere pilot-balloon of a book, but it is very charmingly got up, and has some real poetry in it. The verses entitled "Priory Park," "At the Opera," and "Nymph and Satyr," come without reserve under that description; and there are hints and touches of a facility which belongs only to the poetic faculty in many other places. The best poem in the book, though perhaps the shortest, is

NYMPH AND SATYR,
Here, in the river lilies,
I saw the Nymph repose:
She stooped, and from the water
A magic face arose:
I saw the ripples blooming,
The blue eyes met my sight,
And, hazy gold the tresses,
Lay shimmering in light.
Bright Nymph! She fled, but ever
That face I seemed to see
Blessing the river-water
That flowed and flowed for me.
I nursed the pleasant fancy,
Till coming on a day,
Here where the Nymph had rested,
A Satyr drinking lay.
And through the water flowing,
I saw his image rise;
I saw the horse-lips dripping,
I saw the blood-shot eyes.
Ah, fatal moment! Never
Again the Nymph I see,
Or drink the river-water,
Cursed evermore to me.

After page 117 the volume contains, perhaps, nothing that was worth preserving. But "Nymph and Satyr" might have been written by Heine. We select, for a purpose,

VICTORY IN DEFEAT.
Wreaths to him who from the glorious
Strife of forces comes victorious,
Proud and triumphant greeting—
This the measure of man's meting.
All for triumph: nothing heeding,
Valour fallen, trampled, bleeding,
Battle's hottest brunt sustaining,
Only short of victory gaining.
But, O Brother! crushed, defeated,
Thus God's measure is not meted;
Strictly just, the Father ever
Sees the end in the endeavour.
And between earth's pure and sainted,
And her outcast, foul and tainted,
All the gulf in mortal seeming,
May be bridged in His esteeming.

This is *not* poetry; it is a hint of a thought which might have been presented in a poetic form, only the poetic form is not given to it. As it stands, it simply *says* something instead of presenting it in picture, story, and music. One thing only can make such a poem acceptable—absolute perfection of rhythm; such as Pope, and often Longfellow have attained. And the law of this may be stated as definitely as any formula in arithmetic; though the "general reader" is apt to think these are matters of fancy, and cloudy-minded people ride off upon such sayings as that you can no more give a recipe for a poem than you can for the odour of a violet. You can give a recipe for a poem: the recipe will not, indeed, help more than one man in twenty millions to produce a poem, but it will be help to that one, and a useful check even more than a help.

We shall look out, with interest, for Mr. Sawyer's "Uriel Acosta," with "Lyrics," which a note appended to this volume informs us is "in preparation." We saw advertised—and surely reviewed?—several years ago, a tragedy with that title. Of course, such a story as that of Uriel Acosta must have an awful fascination for a thousand minds. As this poem will probably be in blank verse, we will at once hint that that is Mr. Sawyer's weak point, so far as we can judge from the few specimens in the book before us. We do not know what counsel to give him, however. No doubt, he knows as well as we do that the best training for the writing of blank verse is the incessant reading of Milton's "Paradise." Walter Savage Landor says, "there is more harmony in one single book of 'Paradise Lost' than in all the poetry that ever was heard on earth since the angels sang at its creation." Very Landorish, but quite true; and, no doubt, Mr. Sawyer knows it as well as we do, or better. But he does not seem to pay sufficient attention to the minutia of versification. In line one, page 75, we have "backward fell, and felt." In "Victory and Defeat" it will be observed that, in rhymes extending over sixteen lines, there are only four vowel sounds—long *o* once, long *e* four times, short *e* once, at twice. This is not nearly variety enough for the intention of the verses. Mr. Sawyer will see, the moment it is pointed out, that what some of these verses want is intensity of poetic elaboration. If these very verses had been made strictly antiphonal in structure, with carefully-studied rhythm, they might have been a poem. We do not doubt of meeting Mr. Sawyer again, with pleasure as real as we have now felt, and much greater,

The Journal of a Waiting Gentlewoman. Edited by BEATRICE A. JOURDAN. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.

This is one of those imitations of the antique made popular twenty years since by the "Diary of Lady Willoughby," since imitated in many ways. Such books command a market considerably better than they deserve, despite the *de gustibus* which critical columns, by-the-way, are bound to deride. To a certain extent, every fiction not describing the present day must be more or less antique, but it need not be so antique as to be tiresome. We all want the character of an age reflected fairly, but certainly not in a style so old-fashioned as to be analogous to a dead language. Sir Walter, "pride of all Scotchmen," as Carlyle says, hit this matter very nicely. He showed every age as it lived, but in his own colours, not in the faded tints of antique contemporaries. The celebrated green of John van Eyck is still living freshly enough after its four or five centuries; but the language and the little literature of Charles II.'s time have hopelessly gone to pieces—and to pieces in no way worth putting together again.

Miss Beatrice A. Jourdan takes us to the days of Charles II., and manages to tell us as little about them as possible. There is nothing lifelike. The great people are nobodies; and the common people, who are generally the best, are worth little rather than worth nothing. There is an Earl of Drayton, with his daughter, who is by no means without literary value, and her waiting gentlewoman, who writes with accomplishment about next to nothing; a chaplain, who is suspected of theft, and his mother, who is suspected of witchcraft. For story, it is not unfair to say there is none; and as the book depends, therefore, upon its style in the way of imitation, and that attains no particular excellence, we can only bid it farewell as being graceful company, well intentioned and harmless.

Aunt Margaret's Trouble. By a New Writer. London: Chapman and Hall.

Aunt Margaret tells the short story of her trouble very beautifully. The charm of style seems to be perfectly natural and spontaneous, and far different from that perfection of art which conceals art, and which generally comes only after long years of labour and pain. It must have come with the easiness of sunshine, and it would be quite as difficult to imitate. It is the story of an ancient dame's girlhood. Madge is plain; her elder sister, Anne, beautiful, and violently self-willed. Anne steals Madge's lover from her, and Madge lives to forgive everything, and to bring forgiveness and mercy from every quarter. If the story has a fault, it is that the storyteller is too angelic. People do not like to see human nature so much more honourable than they themselves feel it. The soft and pleasant flow of these pages will be found delightful after the novel-reading endured through the past season; and it is pleasant to add that the characters, though not deeply marked in, are fresh and true bits of the world. Especially to be admired is Stock, the gardener, who speaks his mind, and invariably to one effect—viz., that only himself and one or two more—kept closely concealed—are going to Heaven. If chalk may be compared with cheese—and one is quite as good as another in its way—the character of old Stock may be likened to the infatuated fatalism of Mr. Browning's "Johannes Agricola in meditation." Let the "new writer" become less new as fast as possible.

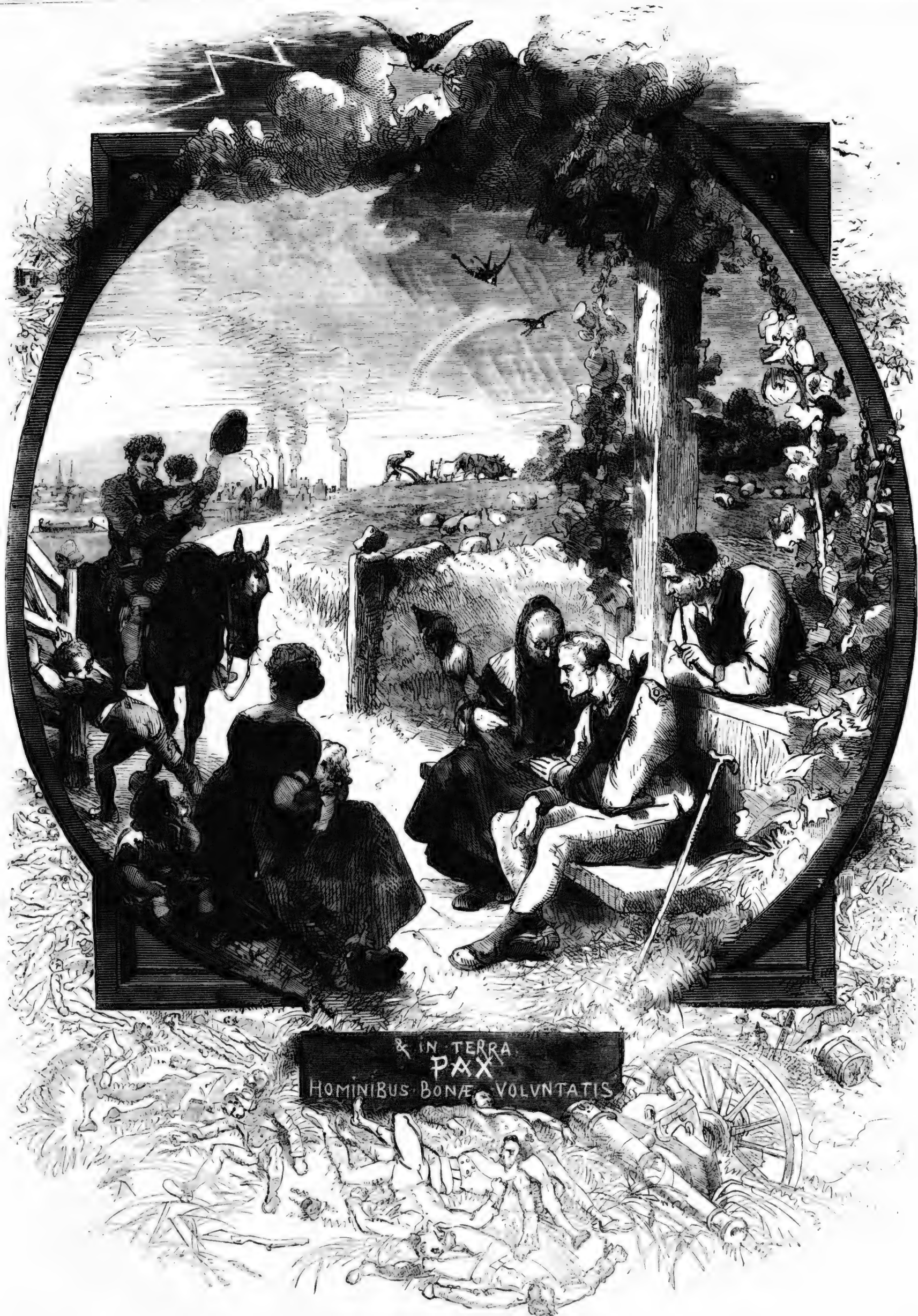
The Trail of the Serpent. By the Author of "Lady Audley's Secret," &c. London: Ward, Lock, and Tyler.

A new edition of one of the earliest of Miss Braddon's fictions will be welcome to many. It is in the one-volume, or library, form, is handsomely printed, and has a good frontispiece and vignette, thus ranging with the other works of the same popular writer. A second look at the pages reminds us how from the first Miss Braddon has been spinning fiction with the same machinery. The ingenuity in "The Trail of the Serpent" is very remarkable. The utter villainy of Jabez North is equalled by his daring and his courage, though he bears his assumed characters with a success more easy to an imaginative writer than to an ordinary "man and a brother." It is impossible to like the matrimonial position in which Valerie is placed; but, as far as hints go, it is more moral than falls to the lot of others of Miss Braddon's heroines. They seem fated to get two husbands; and one of them, at least, if not both, is sure to come off badly. The "Serpent" will surely not be "shut" out from the "Paradise" of lovers of excitable fiction.

EXTENSIVE STRIKE OF LEEDS CLOTHDRESSERS.—The operative cloth-dressers of Leeds struck work on Saturday last, for an advance of 15 per cent on their present rate of wages. Many of the employers whose machinery is now at a standstill have intimated their readiness to give the advance on Oct. 1; but the men refuse to listen to this offer; and, beyond relinquishing their claim for the shortening of working hours, adhere to their demand for an advance of 15 per cent. Many of the mills on strike employ from seventy to eighty hands, and 1000 is said to be a low estimate of the number now out of employment. This cessation of labour will affect the subsistence of at least 2000 individuals additional.

THE PLANTAGENET KINGS.—A correspondent writes us as follows:—"Wandering through France I found myself a short time since at Pontevault, well known as the burial-place of some of our Plantagenet Kings. The abbey, once famous, has gone to rack and ruin; its precincts are transformed into a convict establishment. The graves of the Kings have, of course, been long ago plundered; but there are still preserved, hidden in a dark corner of the convict chapel, begrimed with the dust and dirt of ages, the effigies in marble which once adorned them of Henry II. and Eleanor of Guienne, of Richard Cœur de Lion, and—most beautiful and best preserved of all—Isabella d'Angoulême, the wife of John. Would it not be a graceful act of the French Emperor to hand them over to our Government? As being authenticated likenesses, they would be a valuable addition to the records of our history."—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

DEFENDING THE FAITH.—A Scottish contemporary contains the following report of proceedings at a meeting of the Brechin Town Council last week:—"The clerk read a letter from the local secretaries of the British Association at Dundee, requesting the co-operation of the council in order to make next year's meeting a successful one, and to appoint a committee for endeavouring to ensure that object. The Provost—They are looking for a sum of money, that is quite clear. Mr. P. Guthrie—I think the money might be spent in a better way. All that I know is that at the meeting at Nottingham this year they have propagated infidel principles; and that is the only thing I know they have done. The Provost—Yes; I think that on some other points, again, they have given us additional information. Bailie Craig—There is one thing to be said; if men spread infidel opinions, there is sufficient information in the public press to put it down; and I believe that religion will never collapse by any attack of so-called science. Mr. P. Guthrie—I quite agree with you. The question is, are we to encourage it? Bailie Craig—I would not encourage anybody to propagate and disseminate infidel opinions, but I believe that science, properly so called, must always be consistent with religion, and what is in the Bible; and there are sufficient defenders of the faith to refute any charges that may be brought against the truths contained in the Bible. There are so many able abler defenders of the faith than those who attack it that, in my opinion, the truth will come out untrammelled. My motto is, 'Magna est veritas et prevalebit.' The Provost—There is one thing I am very glad to see, that Bishop Forbes has prepared and published a letter encouraging all parties to study in order to be able to meet these infidel opinions at the next meeting, when there will be a fair battle. Mr. P. Guthrie—I quite agree with you; but I don't see that it is necessary for us to encourage such an association. Bailie Craig—We don't encourage anybody to propagate heretical opinions. We rather encourage individuals to defend what we call the doctrines of the faith, which will be done at the subsequent meeting I have not the slightest doubt. I see a very great deal of discussion has taken place upon Grove's speech, and very able arguments have already been brought forward against it. I don't think we need be at all discouraged. Mr. P. Guthrie—I don't believe but that these people will be driven down very shortly; but if that association is for the purpose of inculcating infidel doctrines I don't see what necessity we have to encourage it. As I have said already, I believe these men will be thoroughly driven down. Mr. Mill—The association takes all and sundry. It is just as well that their opinions should be ventilated and exposed. Mr. Guthrie—if you like to encourage that sort of thing. Mr. Mill—Very well; if you will encourage it, just do it, Mr. Mill. Mr. Mill—But you cannot help it. The Provost—It is but a small section of the faith. I don't know how many sections there may be. I was just in a small section. Mr. P. Guthrie—It is the section that bears upon the truth of the Bible. The President—Groves, being president of the association, should never have led off with that sort of thing. If he had confined the subject to his being the convener of the section, it would not have been so objectionable. But it is rather a question we should not enter into just now. I move that the letter lie on the table till next meeting. This was unanimously agreed to,



THE END OF THE WAR—(DRAWN BY EDWARD MORIN.)

THE END OF THE WAR!

On the 21st of last month peace was concluded between Prussia and Austria, and the most extraordinary war of any age or time was brought to an end, to the satisfaction of Europe.

It was exactly ten weeks after the first Prussian columns had crossed their own frontier, and in that short space of time Saxony, Hanover, Hesse, a great part of Bavaria and Wirtemberg, the whole of Bohemia, Moravia, and the duchy of Austria north of the Danube,

were overrun by the Prussian army. The army of General Benedek had suffered the defeats of Sadowa, Podoll, Münchengrätz, and Gitschin at the hands of Prince Frederick Charles; those of Nachod, Skalitz, and Trautenau at the hands of the Crown Prince. The decisive disaster of Königgrätz, the direct result of the union of the Prussian armies on the field of battle, swept the Austrian army of the north out of Bohemia and drove its shattered legions to cower for refuge behind the earthworks of Olmütz, where they would have

probably remained besieged till the end of the war had not General Benedek, by a daring flank movement in the face of his victorious pursuers, retrieved his reputation for generalship and carried his quickly-reorganised troops to aid in the defence of the capital.

The Prussian armies in Bohemia and Moravia had not sustained a reverse, hardly a check, on their onward course; except when, on the first day of the action of Trautenau, the 1st Corps took no proper precautions to guard itself against a sudden counter-attack—occupied

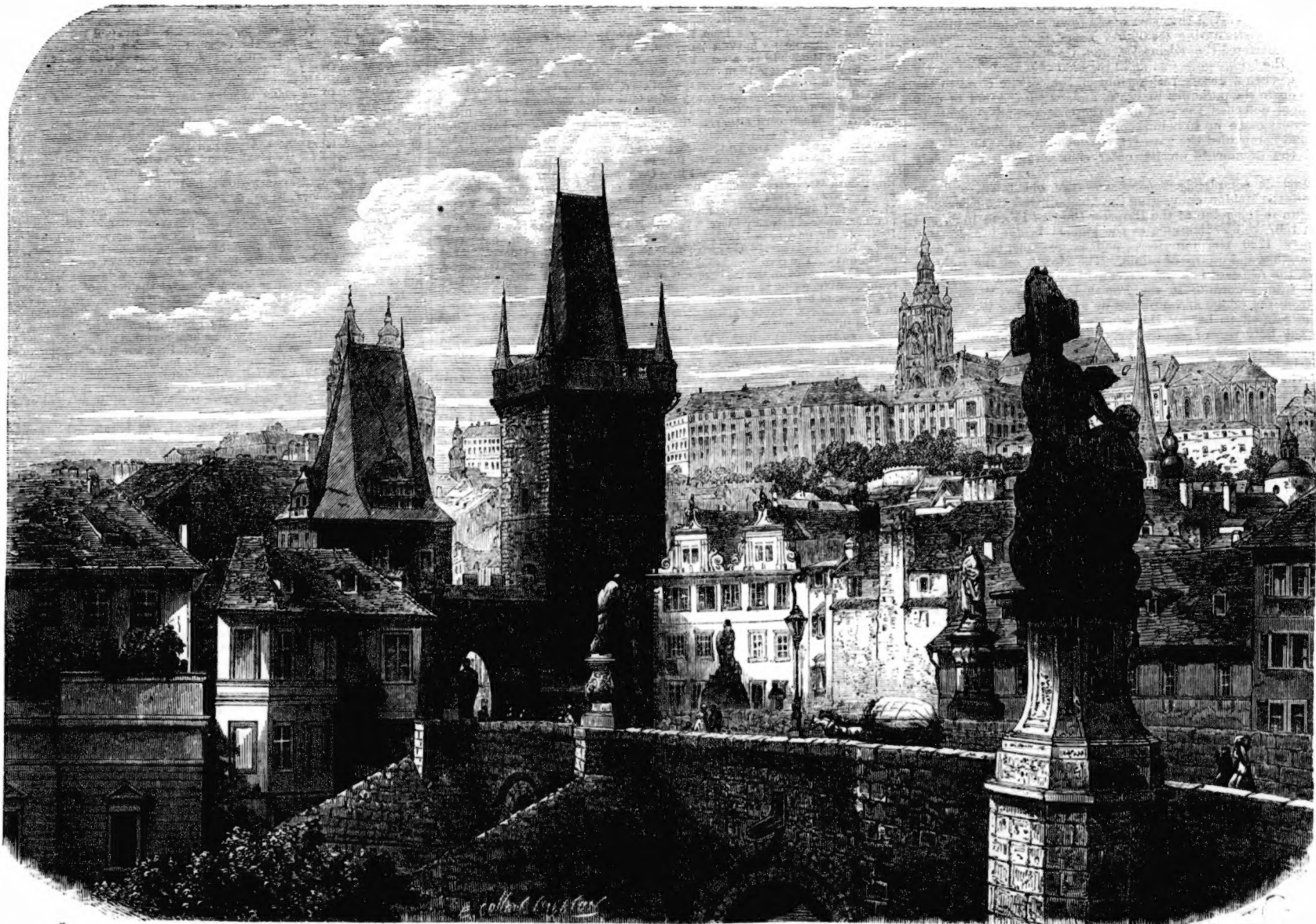


TYROLESE EMIGRANTS FOLLOWING ITALIAN TROOPS.

a town without throwing out suitable advanced posts—and justly suffered for its negligence. The reverse of the first day was, however, retrieved by a crushing success the next morning, which

allowed the corps to move clear out of the mountains and to gain the position near Koniginhof, where the Crown Prince drew his army together and concentrated it on the northern bank of the

Upper Elbe, before he swooped down on the right flank of the Austrians while they were struggling hard to keep back Prince Frederick Charles at Sadowa. This is but a slight sketch of the



THE NEUSTADT END OF THE BRIDGE OF PRAGUE.

operations which preceded the final victory that at once decided the contest. Never was such a campaign known—one by which, in the space of a month, a victorious army swept from place to place and paralysed its antagonist as much by the determined swiftness of its movement as by its superiority in the weapons and matériel of war.

And yet we are reminded, in the midst of the rejoicings and triumph over a victory which may end in a free and united Germany, of all the suffering that has been the price of the achievement. The war is over, but its sad effects will be felt in many a home for years to come. There will be mourning in Austria, both in the houses of the nobles and in the huts of those half-civilised peasants whose brave sons have been hurriedly buried in the shallow graves of the Bohemian battle-fields. There will be mourning in Prussia amongst all classes: in the vine-dresser's cottage, in the homes of those citizen-soldiers who were ready at the call of battle to become a part of the regular army, in the marts, the workshops, the banking-houses, the palaces of Berlin.

The end of the war will bring joy, in the return even of the sick and the maimed son, father, or brother; but it will be long before its deep scars will be effaced; and yet, like old Karl, who after enumerating the horrors of the great battle of the Thirty Years' War, says,

But 'twas a glorious victory,
there are thousands of Germans who will think the present prospects
of the Fatherland well purchased, even at such a heavy rate.

TYROLESE PEASANTS FOLLOWING THE ITALIAN ARMY.

WHATEVER may have been the loyalty of the Tyrolean troops to the Austrian service, there can be no doubt that many of the people of the mountains are strongly influenced by their Italian sympathies, and they will retain those sentiments whatever may be the ultimate settlement of the frontiers of the kingdom.

Scarcely had the news of the departure of the Garibaldian volunteers been spread abroad when numerous Tyrolean families who had hailed the great chief as their probable deliverer, felt impelled to leave their homesteads that they might not be left again to Austrian rule and the oppression pretty certain to be exercised towards those suspected of disaffection. Our illustration represents one of the most suggestive scenes of this emigration, which is not an unimportant fact in the history of the late war.

THE BRIDGE OF PRAQUE, AT THE ENTRANCE TO NEUSTADT.

Now that the Plenipotentiaries of Austria and Prussia have there concluded the treaty which has restored peace to Europe, Neustadt, or the new town of Prague, has again become of immediate importance, and we are able to publish an illustration of that wonderful bridge which, in spite of changes and improvements, still remains the glory of the city.

The view of Prague as seen from this bridge surpasses in grandeur and imposing character the appearance of every other city in Germany. Prague stands in a basin-shaped valley, cut in two by the Moldau, surrounded on all sides by rocks and eminences, upon the slopes of which the buildings of the town rise tier above tier as they recede from the water's edge.

There is something of Asiatic splendour in the aspects and forms of the domes, turrets, spires, and minarets which rise on all sides; but the object which rivets the eye at once is the imposing mass of the palace of the Bohemian Kings, running along the crest of an eminence and overtopping all intermediate buildings. It is backed by the heights of the Laurenzi Berg, where the Pagan Bohemians are said to have celebrated the rites of their fire-worship. Those who converted them to Christianity, perceiving the difficulty of banishing altogether the former heathenish associations connected with the spot, substituted in their place the more holy fires which consumed the martyr St. Lawrence, whose church is built there. On the other side of the river, looking up the stream, are the black precipices and fortifications of the citadel of Wytsehrad, whence the fabled Queen Libusa, the founder of Prague, used to precipitate her lovers into the river as soon as she grew tired of them. Behind the towers of the old town rises Ziskas-hill, which was fortified by the blind Hussite chief whose name it bears, and serves to recall the recollections of those religious troubles in which Prague suffered so grievously. The old watch-tower at the end of the bridge, next the Aldstadt, alone preserved that part of the town from falling into the hands of the Swedes during the Thirty Years' War, in 1648. They had already mastered the Kleinseite, and their attack being quite unexpected, the bridge gate was so ill guarded that they had nearly surprised it, when a Jesuit, rushing out of the college close to the bridge, let down the portcullis in haste, and, with the aid of only three soldiers, defended the post until the citizens and students of the University came up to help them. The Swedes unsuccessfully besieged and bombarded the gate for fourteen weeks. This is the reason of the ornaments on its outer side being so completely defaced.

The Neustadt completely encompasses the old town, and the bridge spans the Moldau, connecting the Aldstadt with the Kleinseite. It was begun in the reign of the Emperor Charles IV., in 1358, and finished in 1507, being celebrated as the longest bridge in Germany. It measures 1790 German feet, and is ornamented on each side with statues and groups of saints. The eighth on the right in going from the Aldstadt is a well-executed bronze statue of St. John Nepomuk, who, according to the Popish legend, was thrown into the river from the bridge and drowned by order of King Wenceslaus, because he refused to betray the secrets confided to him by his Queen in the holy rite of confession. The spot whence he was thrown into the river is still marked by a cross and five stars on the parapet, in imitation of the miraculous flames which flickered over the place where his body lay beneath the water. They continued unextinguished until curiosity was excited, the river dragged, and the body recovered. The honour of being ennobled in the calendar was deferred for centuries after his death. It was not till 1729 that St. John was received among the saints, and his body, encased in a gorgeous silver shrine, placed in the cathedral. From the circumstances of his death he has become the patron saint of bridges in all Catholic countries, and his statue occupies elsewhere a similar situation as at Prague.

SOMNAMBULISM EXTRAORDINARY.—At a farmhouse in the vicinity of Guildford, a few evenings ago, a large roll of butter was brought in at tea. The careful wife proceeded to cut the butter in two, in order that one half of it might only remain on the table. The knife grated upon something in the centre of the butter, and in the very heart of the lump she found a gold watch and chain, very carefully rolled up, but not enveloped in paper or any other covering. At this juncture Sarah B., the domestic, entered the room, and, uttering a sharp exclamation, darted off again precipitately. Scarcely had the farmer time to remark upon Sarah's strange conduct than she returned, breathless, with haste and anxiety, ejaculating, "It's mine, mum! it's mine!" Mrs. B. remembered to have heard Sarah say that she had been left a gold watch and chain by a deceased relative; that she was always in terror of losing it; that she did not wear it, as not suitable to a person in her station of life; and that, for safety, she kept it locked up in her box under her clothes. Sarah declared that she had been in the habit, when under the influence of strong emotion, of walking in her sleep. On the previous Monday she had been reading in the newspaper some dreadful tales of burglary with violence. On the same night she had a most vivid dream. She thought that the house had been entered by burglars, and that she saw them through a chink in the door enter her master and mistress's room. She tried to scream, but could not, and, although very anxious for her master and mistress's welfare, her thoughts seemed to revert, in spite of everything, to the necessity of saving her watch. At length she dreamed that she had hit upon an expedient. She quietly got out of bed, unlocked her box, took out the watch, slipped on her dress, and softly glided down stairs and made her way to the dairy. She there took a roll of butter of the Saturday's making, wound the chain round the watch, and deftly inserted both watch and chain in the very centre of the butter, making up the roll precisely in the form that it was in before. She then thought that she passed swiftly up stairs, and reached her room unmolested. On inspecting the watch found in the butter, she had no hesitation in declaring that it was hers. Farmer — and his wife accordingly handed over to Sarah B. — the watch and chain.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

No official announcement of the opening of Her Majesty's Theatre has yet been put forward; but we believe it is certain that Mr. Mapleson will give a series of operatic performances during the autumn. Some say that they will be given in English, others in Italian. This point ought to be clearly settled beforehand. It is a satisfaction to many persons to know in what language an opera is being sung, however impossible it may be to "catch" the words. It is uncertain whether Mr. Balfe's opera will be produced or not. The subject of the work is said to be "The Talisman," the title, "The Knight of the Leopard."

At Covent Garden a pantomime is to be produced on Boxing Night, preceded by an opera or operetta. In the meanwhile the character of Mr. Mellon's concert-programmes remain unchanged. The conductor continues, by a judicious mixture of styles, to appeal at once to the grave and the gay, to the lively and the severe. Among the great orchestral works that have recently been performed at these entertainments may be mentioned Beethoven's symphony in C minor, Hadyn's military symphony, and Mozart's overture to "Die Zauberflöte." The latest thing in the way of orchestral fantasias is a piece founded on "Masaniello," and built up of melodies selected from that thoroughly melodious work.

To many persons, no doubt, the chief attractions at Mr. Mellon's concerts are not the orchestral pieces, but the performances of the vocal and instrumental soloists. Mlle. Carlotta Patti rouses the audience to enthusiasm by her marvellous execution of the Queen of Night's air in "Die Zauberflöte," or she delights it by her admirable delivery of the cavatina from "Linda di Chamouni," and by her charming singing of simple English and Scotch ballads. Mr. Mellon's company includes this year an unusually large number of vocalists. Besides Mlle. Carlotta Patti, Mlle. Patey-Whitlock, Miss Fanny Armitage, Mlle. Liebhart, Mr. Patey, Mr. Henri Drayton, and Mr. Corri (who, we are happy to say, has entirely recovered from his recent indisposition) are, or have been, engaged.

Signor Bottesini, first, by a long interval, of solo contrabassists, has apparently been induced to abandon his original intention, as announced in the programme, of limiting his engagement to one week. At all events, Signor Bottesini still performs; and, if he has changed his mind, no lover of music will think of reproaching him with infirmity of purpose.

Mlle. Krebs, who began at the beginning of this season-out-of-season, will, it is to be hoped, continue her performances until the end. When Mlle. Krebs first came to England she was admired and applauded as a youthful phenomenon. Mlle. Krebs, judged absolutely, may take rank with the first pianist of the day. She has a most extensive and varied repertoire, which she seems to know by heart; but it is in the best music that she is heard to the greatest advantage, and there is, perhaps, no piece to which her style is better adapted than the favourite "Capriccio Brillante" by Mendelssohn.

Another pianist, in a different style, who has recently been performing at Mr. Mellon's concerts, is Mr. Harry Sanderson. Mr. Sanderson delights in the music of display. He executes fantasias with astonishing *verve*; and, when the fantasias are redemanded, plays wonderful pieces of dance-music. Mr. Sanderson has a passion for octaves which he almost carries to excess. He shows them forth with the freest hand, and in accordance with a system of fingering invented by himself. It has been suggested that if men were indebted for their Christian names, not to the fancy of their parents, but to some personal peculiarity or special aptitude of their own, Mr. Sanderson would be called not "Harry" but "Octavius."

THE HARVEST.

SCOTLAND.—Rarely has there been a harvest-time so unfavourable to the agriculturist as the present. In the beginning of the season there were complaints that the weather was too dry and that the corn was prematurely taking on a yellow tint. Towards the end of July, however, it began to rain, and there has scarcely been a dry day since. The cutting of corn commenced in some districts fully as early as usual; and, as the crops generally were light and in no way laid down and twisted by wind and wet, a considerable proportion of them was in stock a month ago. But, owing to the unsettledness of the weather, very little was cut until Saturday week. There has been a good deal of sprouting in the stock, and in some parts the corn has been discoloured; but, as a rule, the grain has sustained less damage than might have been expected. Stackyards are still comparatively empty; indeed, up to Saturday last we should suppose that not more than a third or fourth of the crop had got safely housed. As yet we have heard little of potato disease, although the weather has been of that kind which is regarded as being very conducive to it.

IRELAND.—The reports from Ireland state that the weather continues very unfavourable for harvest purposes, and considerable fears are entertained that there will be a very bad season. From the Cork district we learn that half the month of August was wet; but, notwithstanding this interruption to field work, a good deal of corn was leveled and stacked and stacked in the fields; but the heavy gales of the first three days of last week scattered them on the ground, and the heavy rains prevented their being gathered. Much corn still remains uncut; and both causes have disappointed the hopes fondly entertained by the farmer some weeks ago. In the latter summer it was known that the harvest this year would be a month late, owing to the unpropitious weather in the spring; but the deficiency in the quantities of all grain brought into Cork market for the two weeks of this month is unprecedented. The quantity of wheat brought in for the first two weeks of 1864 was 17,663 cwt. In the same period in 1865 there were 17,357 cwt.; during the last fortnight, ending on Saturday, there were but 5962 cwt. Of barley there was brought in, in the first two weeks of 1864, 13,619 cwt.; in 1865, 7393 cwt.; and this month but 1028 cwt. In 1864, of oats, 73,779 cwt.; in 1865, 76,521 cwt.; and this month but 39,546 cwt. The corn now brought to market is in rather good condition, having been saved in the early season, which was dry, and the price is very remunerative, owing to the subsequent state of the weather, which affected the saving of the crops abroad. The potato blight has made its appearance in some districts. From various districts of Limerick, Clare, and Kerry has the sad intelligence reached us of lowland meadows, or of the violent wind prostrating alike standing corn and stacked, and scattering the fresh new cut grain in every direction, to be utterly destroyed by the rain torrents. We fear that, in consequence, the harvest will prove sadly deficient in quantity and quality from what has been expected. The potato crop, too, is much complained of, as the presence of the disease in some districts is too apparent. Hay certainly has turned out a fair average yield, and will prove very remunerative; but the quantity required must be much beyond that of former years; with little or no old stock to back it. The great redeeming stock of the year will be mangolds and turnips, which have not been for many years so productive.

THE HOP CROP.—In the month of June severe blight attacked the districts of Worcester and Country Farnham, and, in a less degree, parts of East Kent, the Weald, and Sussex. A considerable recovery took place, but the produce from the plantations affected by vermin will be much short of last year's crop. Middle Kent has met with no malady, and in several parishes more hops are grown than in 1865. The general result in England may be estimated at more than an old duty of £220,000, and at no period since 1859 has there existed so large a surplus stock of yearlings. The number of acres under cultivation has again greatly increased, both here and abroad. The recent winds and rain have delayed the picking, and, to some slight extent, injured the hops grown in exposed situations, and the market is at present very barely supplied with the new growth. The quick sale of the early arrivals, most of which are unripe, and the temporary maintenance of high prices, are fairly accounted for by the eagerness for new hops to meet the expected demand at Worcester on the 19th and the immediately succeeding fairs. In Bavaria and Bohemia the crops are of choice quality and larger than last year, and, with the unsold yearlings, will much exceed local requirements. In America the crop is so great that important shipments are sure to be made to this country, and may be expected to have the usual depressing influence upon prices. Wittenberg, Baden, Alsace, and Lorraine produce excellent crops. In the north of France there will hardly be one third of an average. Belgium—which grew last year the best crop ever remembered—has again a considerable produce, of superior quality; but the prices asked are at present too unreasonable to encourage importations. It may therefore be confidently asserted, in view of the unsold stock of yearlings, the fairly abundant crop of new English hops, and the importations that will arrive from Europe and America, that there is as large a supply of hops available for brewers as at this period last year.

AN AUSTRIAN ENGINEER, M. STEMPF, has invented a kind of balloon designed for the purpose of watching the strategic movements of an enemy. Experiments were made with this aerostatic machine in the presence of a committee of superior officers, as well as the Archduke Albert, Generalissimo of the Imperial army. The apparatus, which consists of five balloons attached to each other, is said to have acted in a manner surpassing the expectations of the committee.

DEATH OF MR. J. B. DILLON, M.P.

THE death of Mr. J. B. Dillon, member for the county of Tipperary, which occurred on Saturday evening last, has given a great shock to the public mind. The hon. gentleman was in his usual health on Monday last. It is stated that the disease to which he has fallen a victim was Asiatic cholera. He died at Druid Lodge, Killiney, where he had been staying for some time. Mr. Dillon, though he held extreme views on Irish politics, was respected by all parties as an honourable, upright, truthful, and earnest man. Every one who knew him felt that he acted from conviction and from a sincere love of country. Mr. Dillon graduated in Trinity College, where he obtained a mastership, was called to the Irish Bar in 1841, and soon after distinguished himself in the agitation for the repeal of the Union, joining the Young Ireland party, who repudiated O'Connell's doctrine that no political gain was worth the shedding of one drop of Christian blood, and that moral force could accomplish all that the Irish people demanded. When the two parties separated, in 1846, the Young Irelanders established "the Irish Confederation," which held its meetings in the Music-hall, Abbey street, where the platform was generally occupied by Dillon, Doherty, O'Gorman, and Martin. The object of the confederation was not war, but, if possible, to render war unnecessary "by the force of opinion, by the combination of all classes of Irishmen," &c. They were especially anxious that Protestants should be united with Roman Catholics in the movement. Resolutions to this effect were adopted at a great meeting in the Rotundo, when John Mitchell moved a revolutionary amendment. This was rejected after a stormy debate, which lasted three days. This led to Mitchell's secession from the *Nation* newspaper, and the establishment of the *United Irishman*, in which he openly advocated rebellion and denounced Lord Clarendon as "Her Majesty's Executioner-General and Butcher-General of Ireland," inviting ladies to throw vitriol on the troops and fling bottles from their windows under the horses' feet. This state of things went on for months. Meantime the Irish confederation sent Messrs. Smith O'Brien, Meagher, and O'Gorman on a deputation to the President of the French Republic to seek aid on behalf of "the oppressed nationality of Ireland." Lamartine returned their high-flown compliments in kind. "The children of our glorious Isle of Erin," he said, "are nations, our treaties are sympathies." The sympathies, however, were barren in this case. At last the patience of the Government was exhausted, and, when the necessary measures were adopted for the suppression of the rebellion, rewards were offered for the arrest of the principal conspirators—£500 for W. S. O'Brien and £300 each for Meagher, Dillon, and Doherty. Dillon made his escape from the country and remained an exile for many years. Soon after his return he resumed his practice at the Bar and was little before the public till the establishment of the National Association, of which he was secretary and may be said to have been the founder. His labours in connection with this body pointed him out as a suitable colleague for Mr. Moore in the county of Tipperary, and he was returned without expense at the last election. It was through Mr. Dillon that Mr. Bright was invited to a banquet in Dublin, to him the letter accepting the invitation was addressed, and the last public matters which occupied the mind of the deceased were the arrangements for the reception of the English champion of popular rights. The premature decease of Mr. Dillon in the midst of his labours will cast a mournful shadow over the festive proceedings in which he had taken so deep an interest.

EXTRAORDINARY SWINDLING CAREER OF AN EX-OFFICER.

ON Monday at the Windsor Guildhall, before the Mayor, Richard Bayley was brought up on remand, charged with several cases of swindling and robbery. On account of the interest of the proceedings, caused by the social position of the prisoner and the extensive nature of his dishonest course at several places, the police court was found to afford insufficient accommodation for the public, and the examination of the prisoner took place in the large council chamber. The career of the prisoner reads almost like a romance. His real name is Richard Albert Watkin Bayley, late Ensign in Her Majesty's 35th Regiment (Royal Sussex), and he was quartered with the depot at Colchester. He is a son of Major-General Bayley, who commanded the Bombay contingent during the Indian mutiny, and who, having retired from the Army, resides in Wales. The prisoner enlisted as a private soldier, during a wild freak, and served in his regiment nearly a twelvemonth, when his father bought him out, and purchased a commission for him in the 35th Regiment. But his waywardness and general misconduct were so incorrigible that in June last he was cashiered and superseded while absent from his regiment without leave. During May and June he was staying in Paris, at the Hotel de Ville et D'Albion, where he assumed the name of Captain Watkins, of the Royal Horse Artillery. In Paris he drew cheques on Sir John Kirland and Co., the army agents of London, purporting to be drawn by Ensign Bayley in favour of Captain Watkins, Royal Horse Artillery, and uttered them, after having indorsed them with the name of Captain Watkins. This being a forgery, the French Government, upon the application of the money changers whom he victimised, have made an application for his extradition, that he may be tried in Paris. After getting as much money as he could by means of false cheques, and borrowing money of the gentlemen staying at the Hotel de Ville, he bolted from the hotel, leaving behind him an empty portmanteau and an unsettled account to the amount of 1100*l.* or 1200*l.* At this time he had with him a companion whose real name is believed to be Denny. This man, an Irishman, with a Yankee cast of countenance, raked money and credit to a large amount upon representing that his name was William L. Howard—a scion of the Yorkshire family of Howards; that his father had £20,000 per annum; and that he himself intended to stand for the representation of the North Riding of Yorkshire at the next election, as he would shortly have £12,000 a year. From one gentleman this individual borrowed upwards of £200. On leaving Paris the prisoner made his appearance at the Horns Tavern, at Kennington, on July 9. He stated that he had been playing cricket at the Oval; and remaining at the house until July 25, he ran up an account of £6. He assumed the name of Captain Watkins. When he left he pretended to be going to get a cheque cashed, and said that he would return and pay his bill. He never returned, and soon after he had gone it was discovered that he had stolen the landlady's gold watch from a drawer in her bed-room. After his apprehension he told Mr. Whitty, the landlord of the house, where he had pawned the watch, and that he had destroyed the ticket. At Kew the prisoner got a boat from a Mr. Williams, and rowed up the Thames to Caversham, near Reading. At Caversham he patronised the White Hart Hotel, and had only left that establishment a couple of hours when a person, sent in search of him by Mr. Williams, arrived from Kew. Eton was the next place of rendezvous, and Mr. John Harding, of the Crown and Cushion Inn, was honoured with his company. The "captain" left suddenly without liquidating his bill. While here he was "Captain Henegau, of the Royal Artillery;" and he casually made the acquaintance of Mr. Burrows, a London medical gentleman, staying at Adelaide square at Windsor, informing that gentleman that he was a visitor at the house of one of the Masters of Eton College. Mr. Burrows invited the "captain" to supper on several occasions, and to join a fishing-party. The "captain," instead of joining the fishing-party, went to Mr. Burrows's apartments, obtained access by means of a plausible excuse that he had permission to write some letters, and stole £4 in cash and several articles that could be easily appropriated. He was disappointed of a sum of £40 he knew Mr. Burrows had in the house, but which that gentleman had fortunately removed. From Windsor "Captain Henegau" went to Egham, and stayed at the house of Mr. Dickinson, the Anglers' Rest, where he slept from Monday to Wednesday. Mr. Dickinson suspected his customer, and on the Wednesday night locked him in his bed-room. Next morning it was found the "captain" had decamped after ransacking the room, stealing a clothes brush, and jumping from a window 13 ft. above the ground. Next the "captain" went to the Bells of Ousely, at Old Windsor, where he hired a cab and was driven to a good fishing spot on the banks of the Thames, and he spent the remainder of the day fishing. At this time Mr. Superintendent Eggar, chief superintendent of the Windsor borough police, was on the track of the swindler, who was discovered by him fishing in the midst of a pouring rain from a punt on the Thames midway between Chertsey and Weybridge. The "captain" was brought back in custody to Windsor, and was remanded on Monday.

THE COLLISION BETWEEN THE STEAM-SHIPS BRUISER AND HASWELL.—The following is the judgment pronounced by Mr. Traill and his nautical assessors in reference to the late collision between the above-named vessels:—"After a careful consideration of all the evidence adduced on behalf of the respective vessels, and maturely weighing the evidence of those witnesses who were not interested in the question, the Court have come to the conclusion that John Scott, the chief mate of the Bruiser, committed a grave error in judgment in mistaking the masthead light of the Haswell for the red light of a vessel at anchor, as it appears clearly from the evidence of the mate of the Grenadier that all the lights of the Haswell were distinctly to be seen at a considerable distance a few minutes before the collision. From the evidence of the witnesses of the Grenadier, in corroboration of the officer on the look-out on board the Haswell, the Bruiser was, no doubt, on the port bow of the Haswell, and had a better look-out been kept, ought to have seen the red lights of the Haswell, if not before, at all events on passing the Grenadier, and in sufficient time to have ported his helm and have avoided the collision. It was contended on the part of the mate of the Bruiser that the Grenadier might have intercepted the view of the side lights of the Haswell until the former had passed the Bruiser, and that the mate might have been confused by the brightness of the lights that had just been passed. The Court cannot assume this to have been the case in the absence of positive proof; and it can only be urged in mitigation of his default, and will not be taken into the consideration of the Board of Trade on application for a renewal of his certificate, which, under the very serious circumstances of this case, the Court feel it necessary, in the execution of its very responsible duty, to cancel; and it is hereby cancelled from this date. The Court have no reason to attribute any portion of the blame of this collision to the officer in charge of the Haswell, and therefore return him his certificate."

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.
TOURIST TICKETS, available for One Calendar Month, are now issued at Paddington, Victoria, Chelsea, and Kensington, and other principal stations on the Great Western Railway, to the principal WATKINS-PLACES on the Dorsetshire, Somersetshire, Devonshire, Cornwall, and Yorkshire Coast, NORTH and SOUTH WALES, and the ISLE OF MAN.
TOURIST'S TICKETS are also issued for CIRCULAR TOURS in NORTH WALES.
To Burton and Mallock, to Malvern and the Valley of the Wye, to the Cumberland Lake District, Dublin via Holyhead, the Lakes of Killarney, Limerick, &c., and the Channel Islands via Weymouth. Cheap Return Tickets to MALVERN are also issued on Fridays and Saturdays, available for return by any train up to the evening of the following Monday.
Programmes, containing fares and full particulars, may be obtained at all the Company's offices and stations.
Paddington, June. J. GRIERSON, General Manager.

CHEAP EXCURSIONS TO BRIGHTON
and BACK EVERY SUNDAY for 3s. from London Bridge, Victoria, and Kensington, at 9.0 a.m. The Kensington Train calls at Chelsea at 9.4 a.m.; Clapham Junction, 9.10 a.m.; Crystal Palace, 9.25 a.m.; Norwood Junction, 9.34 a.m.; and East Croydon, at 9.40 a.m., where Excursion Tickets are issued. Trains return from Brighton for Victoria at 7.0 p.m.; for Kensington at 7.10 p.m. (calling at East Croydon, Norwood Junction, Crystal Palace, Clapham Junction, and Chelsea); and for London Bridge at 7.30 p.m.
FARES THREE AND BACK—1st Class, 5s.; 2nd Class, 4s.; 3rd Class, 3s.
SINGLE TICKETS—1st Class, 5s. 6d.; 2nd Class, 5s. 6d.; 3rd Class, 5s. 6d.
Children under Twelve years of age half price. No luggage allowed.

HASTINGS, ST. LEONARDS, EASTBOURNE, POLEGATE, and LEWES EVERY SUNDAY.—Trains from Victoria at 8.40 a.m., London Bridge at 8.10 a.m., calling at Croydon at 8.33 a.m.
The Victoria Train will leave Hastings on the Return Journey at 6.35 p.m.; St. Leonards, 6.47 p.m.; Eastbourne, 6.55 p.m.; Polegate, 7.10 p.m.; and Lewes at 7.37 p.m.; and the Return Train for London Bridge will leave Hastings at 6.10 p.m.; St. Leonards, 6.18 p.m.; Eastbourne, 6.25 p.m.; Polegate, 6.47; and Lewes at 7.12 p.m.
FARES THREE AND BACK, TO ALL STATIONS.
First Class, 7s. 6d.; Second Class, 5s. 6d.; Third Class, 3s. 6d.
Children under Twelve years of age half-price. No luggage allowed.

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